

## SFIREG OPP Updates

December 2020

### **September 18, 2020: EPA Finalizes Methodologies to Improve Drinking Water Assessments for Conventional Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-finalizes-methodologies-improve-drinking-water-assessments-conventional-pesticides>

EPA has released the final version of three new methodologies to improve drinking water assessments for conventional pesticides. Collectively, these new methods use advanced modeling approaches to incorporate the best available surface water modeling, spatial and historical data on pesticide use. These methods are designed to improve the accuracy, consistency and transparency of pesticide drinking water modeling.

In addition to finalizing these methods to improve drinking water assessments, EPA is also releasing a Framework for Conducting Pesticide Drinking Water Assessments for Surface Water, which describes EPA's robust, tiered process designed to efficiently screen out pesticides that do not pose a potential risk to human health from those requiring more highly refined analyses to better understand potential risks. Read about the new methodologies on our [webpage](#).

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### **September 19, 2020: EPA Administrator Wheeler Meets with Farmers and Local Officials on Efforts to Provide Regulatory Certainty**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-wheeler-meets-farmers-and-local-officials-efforts-provide-regulatory>

Administrator Wheeler announced the interim decisions for atrazine, propazine and simazine, which finalize measures to protect human health, mitigate potential ecological risks and continue to provide America's farmers with the valuable tools they have come to rely on to control weeds in crops. Atrazine, propazine and simazine are widely used in the United States to control a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. Atrazine is an especially effective, affordable, and well-studied herbicide. Twelve meetings of the [FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel \(SAP\)](#) were held to discuss various aspects of atrazine, including cancer and non-cancer effects, potential effects on amphibians, the aquatic plant community level of concern, and surface water monitoring methods.

More information on atrazine and today's interim decisions is available at: [www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/atrazine](http://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/atrazine).

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### **September 22, 2020: EPA Takes Next Step in Review Process for Insecticide Chlorpyrifos, Making Draft Risk Assessments Available**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-next-step-review-process-insecticide-chlorpyrifos-making-draft-risk-assessments>

Meeting an important commitment made in the Agency's [July 2019 response to the related petition denial](#), EPA has released its draft risk assessments for chlorpyrifos for public review. These draft risk assessments are the next stage in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration review process and are not a denial or approval of the insecticide.

Full details on these potential risks and EPA's methods for estimating them can be found within the revised human health and draft ecological risk assessments [located on the Agency's website](#).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/07/2020-26386/pesticide-registration-review-proposed-interim-decision-for-chlorpyrifos-notice-of-availability> **Comment period ends.**

(2/5/2021)

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### **September 23, 2020: EPA Provides Information About Reducing Pesticide Impacts to Endangered Species**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-provides-information-about-reducing-pesticide-impacts-endangered-species>

EPA is providing materials to help the public and pesticide applicators protect endangered species and their critical habitats.

Information on possible risk reduction measures, such as best management practices to reduce exposures and impacts to federally threatened and endangered species, can now be found on [our website](#). These materials came out of EPA's consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on registrations of pesticide products containing the insecticides [chlorpyrifos](#), [diazinon](#) and [malathion](#).

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### **September 28, 2020: EPA Updates Aquatic Life Benchmarks for Registered Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-updates-aquatic-life-benchmarks-registered-pesticides>

EPA, in collaboration with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the U.S. Geological Survey, released an updated [aquatic life benchmarks](#) table, which includes both new and updated aquatic life benchmark values.

The [updated aquatic life benchmarks](#) represent newly registered pesticides or new values for previously registered pesticides and selected degradates, or new registrations. EPA's goal is to add to these benchmarks on an annual basis; the last update was published September 30, 2019.

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### **September 30, 2020: EPA Approves Innovative Products to Aid in Wildfire Management**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-innovative-products-aid-wildfire-management>

EPA has approved two new products that could prove helpful in preventing future wildfires in Western states. These innovative products contain the new microbial active ingredient *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain ACK55 for use as a pre-emergent herbicide.

After reviewing public comments and the best available science, EPA has approved the registration of end-use product Battalion Pro (EPA Reg No. 91213-3) and a manufacturing-use product (EPA Reg No. 91213-4). When applied, *P. fluorescens* ACK55 acts as a naturally occurring bacterium that becomes established in the soil. The herbicide Battalion Pro has been approved for targeted application on invasive, noxious grasses in areas such as food crops, pastures, forests and recreational areas. For more information, visit docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0336 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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### **October 5, 2020: EPA Hosts Webinars Dedicated to Plant-Incorporated Protectant Proposals**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-hosts-webinars-dedicated-plant-incorporated-protectant-proposals>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs hosted two webinars to address plant-incorporated protectant (PIP) proposals. On Oct. 14, 2020, the [Proposed Rule Exemptions of Certain Plant-Incorporated Protectants Derived from Newer Technologies](#) webinar described our proposal to exempt certain PIPs created through biotechnology.

On Oct. 22, 2020, the Agency hosted the Plant-Incorporated Protectant Insect Resistance Management Draft Proposal webinar to describe EPA's draft proposal to improve insect resistance management (IRM) strategies for lepidopteran pests affecting *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn and cotton PIPs.

These webinars represent EPA's ongoing efforts to engage with stakeholders as the Agency proposes innovative changes to current agricultural practices.

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### **October 5, 2020: EPA Hosts Webinar to Address Proper Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols for Learning Environments**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-hosts-webinar-address-proper-cleaning-and-disinfecting-protocols-learning>

On Oct. 13, EPA hosted a webinar dedicated to best management practices for cleaning and disinfecting schools, day cares and universities. The webinar, [\*Addressing Disease Mitigation in Schools, Daycare Centers and Universities with Sanitizers and Disinfectants\*](#), provided participants with cleaning and disinfection recommendations to fight pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

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### **October 6, 2020: EPA Awards Competitive Grant to NAU's Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-competitive-grant-naus-institute-tribal-environmental-professionals>

EPA awarded a five-year cooperative agreement to the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University (NAU). ITEP will receive \$975,000 to administer and provide technical support for the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), an EPA partnership group that informs tribes of pesticide issues, promotes pesticide education and awareness, and assists in the development and establishment of comprehensive tribal pesticide programs.

Read the [September 2019 TPPC Funding Opportunity Announcement - EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-003](#) for more information on the cooperative agreement.

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### **October 7, 2020: EPA Announces Guidance to Waive Toxicity Tests on Animal Skin**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-guidance-waive-toxicity-tests-animal-skin>

EPA is continuing to follow through on EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's commitment to reduce animal testing by seeking public comment on draft guidance that would allow researchers to forego testing chemicals on animal skin in certain circumstances to determine whether pesticides lead to adverse effects.

The [proposed dermal toxicity guidance](#) would allow waivers for studies on single-active ingredients used to develop end use products to apply for waivers. In developing the guidance, EPA conducted a retrospective analysis and concluded that its requirements for such studies provides little to no added value in regulatory decision making. This guidance, when finalized, is expected to save up to 750 test animals annually from unnecessary testing as well as EPA, industry and laboratory resources.

In addition, EPA has [launched a new webpage](#) that provides metrics and strategies for reducing and replacing animal testing, including links and resources to all pertinent guidance and workplans tied to the larger [Toxicology in the 21st Century Initiative](#) across the federal government.

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### **October 8, 2020: EPA Reduces Burden, Promotes Innovation with Proposed Action on Chitosan**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reduces-burden-promotes-innovation-proposed-action-chitosan>

EPA is seeking comments on a proposal to add chitosan (Poly-D-Glucosamine) to its [list of active ingredients eligible for EPA's minimum risk pesticide exemption](#). By adding this naturally-occurring substance to this list, the agency can save taxpayers and stakeholders time and money through waived Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration requirements for certain products containing chitosan. For uses as a plant growth regulator, chitosan is applied to treat field crops, ornamentals, turf, home gardens, and nurseries.

Chitosan is a naturally occurring substance found in the cell walls of all crustaceans, most fungi, and the exoskeletons of most insects. It is currently registered with EPA as a fungicide, antimicrobial agent, and plant growth regulator that boosts the ability of plants to defend against fungal infections. It has been more than a decade since a substance was last added to the agency's [Minimum Risk Exemption List](#).

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### **October 14, 2020: EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler Announces Expedited Pathway for Companies to Claim “Long-Lasting” Efficacy for Antiviral Products**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-andrew-wheeler-announces-expedited-pathway-companies-claim-long>

EPA released draft guidance allowing companies to demonstrate that their products have “long-lasting” or “residual” effectiveness on surfaces against viruses like SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The guidance specifies scientific testing requirements for two different types of products: supplemental residual antimicrobial products and residual disinfectants. Supplemental residual antimicrobial products work within two hours of a virus or bacteria coming into contact with a surface and can remain effective for weeks to years. These products can supplement, but do not replace, routine cleaning and disinfection using products from [EPA’s List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(List N\)](#).

Residual disinfectants are effective within 10 minutes of a virus or bacteria contacting a surface and remain effective for up to 24 hours. Surfaces treated with residual disinfectants do not require additional cleaning or disinfection during this window. These products are eligible to be added to List N.

To read the draft guidance, visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/interim-guidance-expedited-review-products-adding-residual-efficacy-claims>.

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### **October 19, 2020: EPA Hosts Second Annual Conference to Discuss Animal Testing Alternatives and Reduction Strategies**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-hosts-second-annual-conference-discuss-animal-testing-alternatives-and-reduction>

EPA held the agency’s [Second Annual Conference on the State of the Science on Development and Use of New Approach Methods \(NAMs\) for Chemical Safety Testing](#). More than 1,000 experts from EPA, other governmental agencies, academia, and industry are gathering virtually to hear presentations about scientific advancements in the NAMs field, enabling participants to develop a better understanding of the state of the science and develop scientific confidence in alternative test methods.

This year, the conference highlighted advances in the development of NAMs and addressed their limitations, reported results of various case studies on applying NAMs to EPA’s decision making and Unilever’s risk assessment process, summarized strategies identified in EPA’s NAMs Work Plan and outlined progress on incorporating NAMs under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

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### **October 20, 2020: EPA Holds Online Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting in October**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-online-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-meeting-october>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) held an online public meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) on Oct. 28-29, 2020. Topics included recent OPP registration activities, such as approving new products that could help with rodent control and prove helpful in preventing future wildfires in Western states; science policy activities, such as measures to reduce animal testing; conversations about the formation of four new PPDC workgroups: Pesticide Resistance Management, Farmworker and Clinician Training, Emerging Pathogens, and Emerging Technologies; OPP's COVID-19 response activities, including testing the efficacy of disinfectants against SARS-CoV-2; and, OPP process improvements, such as IT modernization.

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### **October 21, 2020: EPA's List of Approved SARS-CoV-2 Surface Disinfectant Products Passes 500**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epas-list-approved-sars-cov-2-surface-disinfectant-products-passes-500>

EPA has now approved more than 500 surface disinfectant products for use against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The more than 500 wipes, sprays and other products on List N are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 because they demonstrate efficacy against the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, a pathogen that is harder to kill than SARS-CoV-2, or a different human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2.

In early March, EPA released its initial [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#). This list began with 85 products and continues to be updated on a weekly basis. The list is searchable and sortable, [comes with helpful tips on how to use disinfectants properly](#), and features [frequently asked questions](#) to ensure correct product usage. EPA's List N has received more than 20 million views and remains a valuable resource for the public.

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### **October 22, 2020: EPA Proposes New Safety Measures for Paraquat**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-new-safety-measures-paraquat>

EPA is taking the next step in its regulatory review of paraquat dichloride (paraquat), a widely-used herbicide. As outlined in the proposed interim decision for paraquat, the agency is proposing new measures to reduce risks associated with paraquat.

In addition, EPA is proposing to allow truck drivers who are not certified applicators to transport paraquat when certain conditions are met. The proposed interim decision for paraquat is now available for [public comment for 60 days in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855 at www.regulations.gov, closing on December 22, 2020.](#)

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### **October 22, 2020: EPA Addresses Human Health and Ecological Risks Posed by 13 Pyrethroids**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-addresses-human-health-and-ecological-risks-posed-13-pyrethroids>

EPA released interim registration review decisions for 13 pyrethroid insecticides. As part of this action, additional label changes are required for some bifenthrin, cyfluthrin and beta-cyfluthrin and prallethrin products to reduce potential human health risks for residential post-application and occupational handler scenarios.

Pyrethroid and pyrethrin pesticides target a wide range of pests in agricultural and non-agricultural settings. Agricultural uses include grains, nuts, vegetables and other crops. Non-agricultural uses include pet health applications, termite treatments, and public health mosquito control. The interim decisions are for bifenthrin, cyfluthrin and beta-cyfluthrin, cyphenothrin, deltamethrin, d-phenothrin, esfenvalerate, fenprothrin, imiprothrin, permethrin, prallethrin, tau-fluvalinate, tefluthrin and tetramethrin.

[More information on the pyrethroids and pyrethrins proposed and interim decisions is available at EPA's website](#)

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**October 22, 2020: EPA Administrator Wheeler Announces Proposed Action to Cancel Irgarol Uses**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-wheeler-announces-proposed-action-cancel-irgarol-uses>

EPA is proposing to cancel certain uses of irgarol in order to better protect coral and other aquatic life. Irgarol is most often used in antifoulant paint that is applied to protect boat hulls. After completing an [ecological risk assessment](#), EPA determined that irgarol, which is used in antifoulant paint and as a materials preservative in algicidal paints, is toxic to both freshwater and marine plants, including causing the bleaching of coral. To address these issues, EPA is proposing to cancel all uses of irgarol as an antifoulant paint through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration review process. The agency will accept **public comments on this proposed interim decision (PID) until December 22, 2020**, in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0003 at <https://beta.regulations.gov/search?filter=EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0003%20>.

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**October 26, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Tetraniliprole, a New Insecticide Active Ingredient**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-tetraniliprole-new-insecticide-active-ingredient>

EPA is proposing to register pesticide products containing the new active ingredient tetraniliprole. Tetraniliprole is an insecticide designed to control a wide variety of agricultural pests on pome fruit, stone fruit, tree nuts, small fruit vine climbing crops, fruiting vegetables, tuberous and corm vegetables, Brassica head and stem vegetables, leafy vegetables, tobacco, soybeans, corn, citrus, and sod. It is also proposed for use on residential lawns and golf courses.

Risks from tetraniliprole to individual honey bees and honey bee colonies were low for most crops. For crops where risks were identified, EPA is proposing crop-specific application timing restrictions to mitigate risks to individual honey bees and honey bee colonies.

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**October 26, 2020: **Comment Period** for Interim Guidance on Residual Efficacy Claims Now Open**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-interim-guidance-residual-efficacy-claims-now-open>

EPA's interim guidance on registering products that claim to have "residual" or "long-lasting" against viruses is available for public comment until January 4th. On October 14th, [EPA announced](#) that it would begin [expediting its review](#) of products with residual efficacy intended for use against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The public comment period will be open for 60 days in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0529 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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**October 27, 2020: EPA Announces 2020 Dicamba Registration Decision**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-2020-dicamba-registration-decision>

EPA approved new registrations for two "over-the-top" (OTT) dicamba products—XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology and Engenia Herbicide—and extended the registration for an additional OTT dicamba product, Tavium Plus VaporGrip Technology. These registrations are only for use on dicamba-tolerant (DT) cotton and soybeans and will expire in 2025, providing certainty to American agriculture for the upcoming growing season and beyond. All three registrations include new control measures to ensure these products can be used effectively while protecting the environment, including non-target plants, animals, and other crops not tolerant to dicamba.

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## **October 28, 2020: EPA Continues Webinar Series Dedicated to Integrated Pest Management Strategies**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-continues-webinar-series-dedicated-integrated-pest-management-strategies>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs continues its focus on integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. On November 12, EPA hosted a 60-minute webinar, *IPM for Scale Insect Pests of Trees and Woody Ornamentals* followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. Objectives for the webinar included learning how to identify between different types of scale insects - armored and soft - and control tactics for each; determining IPM preventative measures appropriate for each stage of the scale insect life cycle; learning how to identify and manage an infestation and what actions to take to minimize tree, shrub or ornamental damage; and understanding how to incorporate pesticides safely into a comprehensive IPM plan.

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## **October 29, 2020: EPA Finalizes Improvements to Pesticide Application Exclusion Zone Requirements**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-improvements-pesticide-application-exclusion-zone-requirements>

EPA finalized important improvements to requirements for the pesticide application exclusion zone (AEZ)—the area surrounding pesticide application equipment that exists only during outdoor production pesticide applications. EPA's targeted changes improve the enforceability and workability of the AEZ requirements, decrease regulatory burdens for farmers, and maintain critical worker protections.

The targeted changes included clarifying that AEZ requirements only apply within the boundaries of the agricultural establishment, removing off-farm responsibilities that were difficult for state regulators to enforce. Immediate family members of farm owners are now exempted from all aspects of the AEZ requirements. Farm owners and their immediate family are now able to shelter in place inside closed buildings, giving farm owners and immediate family members flexibility to decide whether to stay on-site during pesticide applications, rather than compelling them to leave even when they feel safe remaining. New clarifying language has been added so that pesticide applications that are suspended due to individuals entering an AEZ may be resumed after those individuals have left the AEZ. EPA simplified criteria to determine whether pesticide applications are subject to the 25- or 100-foot AEZ.

To read the rule in full, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/worker-protection-standard-application-exclusion-zone>.

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## **October 30, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of New Active Ingredient to Control Corn Rootworm and Other Pests**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-active-ingredient-control-corn-rootworm-and-other-pests>

EPA is proposing to register pesticide products containing the new active ingredient broflanilide. Broflanilide is an insecticide designed to control soil-dwelling insects (ex. corn rootworm larvae, seedcorn maggot, white grubs, and wireworms) on corn and tuberous and corm vegetables. It can also be used as seed treatment to control wireworms on cereal grains.

EPA is also proposing to use bloflanilide for control of flies, ants, bedbugs, cockroaches, termites and other insects in industrial, commercial and residential areas.

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## **November 3, 2020: EPA Proposes Updates to List of Pests of Significant Health Importance**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-updates-list-pests-significant-health-importance>

EPA has released an updated list of pests of significant health importance for public review and comment. Federal law requires EPA, in coordination with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to identify pests of significant public health importance and in coordination with the Public Health Service, to develop and implement programs to improve and facilitate the safe and necessary use of chemical, biological, and other methods to combat and control such pests of public health importance. The list does not affect the regulatory status of any registration or application for registration of any pesticide product.

EPA will take public comment on the draft Pesticide Registration Notice during a 60-day **public comment period ending on January 3, 2021** via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Docket ID: [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0260](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0260)).

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### **November 5, 2020: EPA Releases Draft Biological Evaluations for Atrazine, Simazine and Propazine**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-biological-evaluations-atrazine-simazine-and-propazine>

EPA is taking the next step in its regulatory review of atrazine, simazine and propazine, three widely-used herbicides used to control a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. Atrazine is used on about 75 million acres of agricultural crop land every year and is especially effective, affordable, and well-studied. EPA is releasing its [draft biological evaluations \(BEs\) for triazines](#) for public review and comment.

EPA will accept public comments on the draft evaluations until Jan. 5, 2021. To read the biological evaluations, please visit [our webpage](#). EPA is accepting public comments via docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0514 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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### **November 6, 2020: Burden Reduction Comes in All "Spices"**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/burden-reduction-comes-all-spices>

EPA announced a final rule revising pesticide crop grouping regulations for herbs and spices, resulting in significant burden reductions and cost savings to growers of nearly \$52 million annually while maintaining current protections for human health and the environment. Through this final action, EPA is revising one commodity definition, adding three new commodity definitions, and amending the current herbs and spices crop group currently provided in Crop Group 19. The estimated cost savings for this final rule is \$51.8 million annually.

Starting in 2007, EPA has taken a phased approach towards revising the current pesticide crop grouping regulations with today's final rule representing the fifth phase of this effort. The sixth phase will begin shortly. The final rule and related documents are available in docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766) at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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### **November 16, 2020: EPA Announces Implementation of Electronic Gold Seal Letter for Exporting Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-implementation-electronic-gold-seal-letter-exporting-pesticides>

EPA is now providing pesticide registrants with electronic Certificates of Registration, commonly known as gold seal letters. This improved process allows for the electronic gold seal letters to be emailed to registrants rather than physically mailed, providing a key flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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**November 17, 2020: EPA Awards \$2.5 Million to the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs for Farmworker Pesticide Training**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-25-million-association-farmworker-opportunity-programs-farmworker-0>

EPA has selected the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) to receive up to \$500,000 annually to conduct pesticide safety training across the country over the next five years. With EPA funding, AFOP will administer this grant to provide occupational health and safety trainings to migrant and seasonal farmworkers in more than 25 states through a network of over 200 trainers.

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**November 18, 2020: EPA Continues Action to Address Ethylene Oxide**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-continues-action-address-ethylene-oxide>

EPA took the next step in its review of the pesticide registration for ethylene oxide (EtO) by releasing a draft risk assessment for public comment. EPA regulates EtO's use as a sterilant, which is considered an antimicrobial pesticide under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The draft risk assessment for the registration review presents multiple analyses that capture a wide range of possible levels of EtO that could affect a person's risk of getting cancer from long-term, chronic exposures to EtO, either in the workplace or through the outdoor air. Based on all available information about EtO's toxicity, EPA found that inhaling EtO over many decades can cause cancer risks of concern.

The agency will take public comment on the draft risk assessment for 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0244].

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**November 24, 2020: EPA Seeking Comments on Updated Plant Biostimulants Guidance**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-seeking-comments-updated-plant-biostimulants-guidance>

EPA is accepting comments on an updated [Draft Guidance for Plant Regulators and Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants](#). The updated draft guidance incorporates diverse and helpful changes made in response to stakeholder feedback received during the draft guidance's initial comment period in 2019. EPA now will seek input on those changes, including the wording of certain plant and non-plant regulator claim examples.

The public comment period will be **open for 30 days** in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0258 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). After carefully considering the comments received, EPA anticipates finalizing this guidance in January 2021.

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**November 25, 2020: EPA Releases Draft Biological Evaluation for Glyphosate**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-biological-evaluation-glyphosate>

EPA is taking the next step in its regulatory review of glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the United States, which is used to control a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. Glyphosate is used on about 298 million acres of agricultural crop land every year and is effective and affordable.

EPA's draft biological evaluation for glyphosate includes an effects determination for listed species and designated critical habitats and finds that glyphosate is likely to adversely affect a significant percent of endangered species and critical habitats. The agency will accept public comments on its draft evaluation for 60 days following its release and then will finalize the evaluation.