

## SFIREG FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Laboratory Directors Report – June 7, 2021: 2:30 pm

*The SFIREG Laboratory Director's Liaison has not been made aware of any current laboratory issues which are significantly impacting the various state FIFRA testing laboratories pesticide enforcement activities. Some peripheral and common issues which have surfaced are as follows:*

- **PFAS:** A few Agriculture Laboratories are reporting that their Lead Agencies are requesting them to bring on PFAS testing capacity. This is an expensive and time-consuming venture due to the need for modified and dedicated testing equipment and the time required for internal method development and validation. Unless state FIFRA programs anticipate a multi-year, surveillance program involving a high sample volume this effort may not be worth the initial startup costs. Many State Natural Resource, Environment or Health Department Laboratories already have PFAS testing programs underway or have developed relationships with private laboratories certified to test for PFAS (PFOA/PFOS) under the EPA Contaminant Candidate List 4 (CCL 4 ) <https://www.epa.gov/ccl/contaminant-candidate-list-4-ccl-4-0>. Additionally, some regional EPA laboratories may have this testing capacity in place. Partnering with other internal state agencies or regional EPA labs on PFAS testing may be the most cost-effective and time efficient option for State FIFRA Programs to consider?
- **Consumable Laboratory Supply Shortages:** Some Laboratories are reporting shortages / ordering backlogs related to consumable laboratory plastics such as pipette tips and disposable tubes. Shortages are likely due to increased testing worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No major delays in test result reporting related to pesticide investigation have been noted.
- **PREP Laboratory Issues Course Planning:** State laboratory representatives from AL, IN, MN, CO, VT, VA, in addition to EPA: Fort Meade Lab, OPP, OECA, OCSPP and University of California (UC) IPM, and UC- Davis are busy planning for the upcoming PREP Laboratory Issues virtual course which will be offered August 23 – 26. The course goal: *Share knowledge, expertise, pesticide program communication strategies, and best practices to enhance competency and quality for managing a modern pesticide laboratory.*
- **EPA Laboratory Workshops:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2019 (Nevada) and 2020 (Michigan) workshops were cancelled. These are both anticipated to be held in 2022. Volunteer laboratories have been identified to conduct two workshops in 2023 to utilize the allocated EPA workshop annual funding.
- **Laboratory Issues Communication:** State laboratories are encouraged to participate in the quarterly EPA / AAPCO Laboratory Committee call to contribute content and share trending issues or raise significant testing issues of concern. Next call scheduled for July 28 at 3:00 pm ET.
- **End of Report**