

State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Report

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June 6-7, 2022

The Region 6 spring pre-SFIREG meeting was held by teleconference via Microsoft Teams on May 25-26, 2022. All the states in the region (OK, AR, LA, TX, NM) as well as the Eight Northern Pueblos Indian Council and the Cherokee Nation participated. Due to the virtual format and participants schedules the meeting took place over two days.

State Updates:

Arkansas-Working through complaints (approximately 500 for FY21), Arkansas reports they are receiving a substantial amount of FOIA request (most in regards to dicamba complaints)

Louisiana-No dicamba complaints, adjusting to many staffing changes, Addressing C&T comments

New Mexico-No dicamba concerns, trying to fill vacant positions, Addressing C&T comments

Oklahoma-Addressing C&T comments, No dicamba complaints this season, Held 2 pesticide disposals collecting over 72,000 lbs., working with other State agencies dealing with pesticide use on Medical Marijuana

Texas-6-9 dicamba complaints per season all other complaints are trending lower than normal, Addressing C&T comments

ENPIC-Teleworking, reservations are back open

Region 6 Discussions to Specific SFIREG Topics

1. **Chlorpyrifos:**

Region 6 states have not have many issues with the cancellation of the chlorpyrifos tolerances. The states have received few to no calls regarding this product. Those states that have received calls mainly focused on disposal. Louisiana did have a situation where there was an entity that had a large amount of chlorpyrifos treated seed. Ultimately after discussions with EPA the seed was treated prior to the cutoff date and was legal to plant.

2. **PFAS/PFOS:**

No Region 6 state has had any reported issued.

3. **Treated Seed:**

Most states do not have any issues concerning treated seed. All Region 6 states have a seed treatment applicator category and inspect these individuals regularly. The greatest concern with treated seed is when it comes to disposal. All Region 6 states have disposal programs but cannot afford to take large quantities of treated seed. There was one complaint discussed, this was a farmer emptying a drill in a ditch.

4. **Revised C&T Plans:**

All states have received comments and are working to address those comments. All states have requested an extension from the June 1st date with most stating they would have the comments addressed by June 15th. Region 6 EPA staff have been great to work with; however all states feel like the goal post is continually moving. There was some concern with comments relating to issuing a license if an individual's license has been revoked in another state, as well as how CEU's are awarded.

It is apparent that EPA still has work to do to get these plans approved. The states are willing to work with our regional counterparts but also ask for understanding in regards to timelines and the amount of time it takes to address these comments.

5. **ESA Workplan:**

States are glad to see ESA a priority with product registration. Some states reported that Bulletins Live isn't always current. Co-Regulators, such as SLA's would like to know more about what we are trying to protect.

6. **Enlist:**

The way the registration of this product was released caused chaos and panic in some of the Region 6 states. The timing of this could not have been worse for a lot of region 6 producers. States were fielding calls from producers that had already purchased and had the product on the farm. Ultimately corrections were made and for most, things turned out in their favor. The states hope that this does not happen again. There have not been any issues with this product in region 6 states. Louisiana is in the process to reduce state regulation on 2,4-D and Dicamba.

7. **Dicamba:**

Region 6 states for the most part have seen no issues with the exception of Arkansas. Oklahoma and Texas continue to see very few complaints. New Mexico and Louisiana both stated that they did not receive any dicamba complaints.

Oklahoma and Texas still have issues with the cutoff dates on the label. States have been told that more data is needed but cannot get answer as to what specific data is need. Oklahoma and Texas has both submitted substantial data with little to no response.

Other topics discussed:

Diuron

Louisiana reported getting a few calls mainly dealing with sugarcane. Texas has received some calls and are preparing to make comments.

Residential Mosquito Application

Texas has reported an increasing number of complaints dealing with residential mosquito spraying. Region 6 supports the issue paper regarding residential mosquito spraying.