

# State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Report

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The Region 6 spring pre-SFIREG meeting was held in person in Dallas, TX at EPA R6 offices on October 25-26, 2022. All the states in the region (OK, AR, LA, TX, NM) as well as the Eight Northern Pueblos Indian Council, the Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation participated.

## **State Updates:**

Arkansas-Working through complaints (approximately 390 for FY22 of that 199 are dicamba related), Arkansas reports they are still receiving a substantial amount of FOIA request (most regarding dicamba complaints). Arkansas surpassed five million pounds of unwanted pesticides collected. The agricultural side has switched to L Track for licensing and inspections. The structural side received 129 complaints. The structural section has switched to EverBlue for electronic testing.

Louisiana-LDAFF received 2 dicamba complaints. LDAFF is down several positions and are currently trying to get those positions filled, working in office 5 days a week. LDAFF has some areas that do not allow any commercial applications of 2,4-D, they are getting pressure to change that regulation. LDAFF has started an unwanted pesticide disposal program and will hold there first collections this spring.

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

Oklahoma-ODAFF reported 95 complaints, 46 of those complaints were drift complaints, no dicamba complaints. C&T plan has been a work in progress and waiting on answers from the Region. ODAFF teleworks 4 days a week with one day in office.

Texas-TCEQ took over 200 water samples screening for Atrazine, all samples reported well under the POC. TDA reported complaints below normal (132) only 5 OTT dicamba complaints. TDA is mostly teleworking, in office one day a week.

ENPIC-Teleworking, reservations are back open.

## Region 6 Discussions to Specific SFIREG Topics

### **Chlorpyrifos/OP Cancellation:**

Region 6 states have not had 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.

### **Revised C&T Plans:**

All states have received comments and are working to address those comments. Region 6 EPA staff have been great to work with. All states indicated that this round of comments was significantly reduced from past comments. 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. All region 6 states will address all comments by rule. Another issue/question that was raised, states are getting pressed to cite FIFRA 14(b), this would greatly reduce the states' ability to maintain their current penalty matrix.

The states are willing to work with our regional counterparts but also ask for understanding regarding timelines and the amount of time it takes to address these comments. At the time of our meeting no region 6 state has submitted a final plan.

### **Dicamba:**

Region 6 states for the most part have seen no issues except for 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. Oklahoma and Texas have both submitted substantial data with little to no response.

### **Other topics discussed:**

#### *Diuron*

Louisiana reported getting a few calls mainly dealing with sugarcane, those concerns have been addressed, no issue.

#### *Chlorine/Hypochlorite Labels*

Chlorine/hypochlorite labels that limit the level of chlorine residual to 0.2-0.6 mg/L while the Safe Drinking Water Act allows up to 4 mg/L. This has caused and is causing some issues. Docket EPA-HQ-2010-0242 and Interim Registration Review Case # 4022, September 2020 has some information but does not really address the issue.