

Office of Pesticide Programs UAV Update

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials

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OPP - UAV Considerations

- **EPA does not have established policy regarding pesticide applications using UASs, data requirements, or implementation on pesticide labels.**
- Currently, there is no established risk assessment framework or approved model to evaluate drift from emerging technology like UAVs.
- Priority for EPA is to understand the exposure considerations from UAVs and how it compares to existing application technology.
- EPA continues to work towards a standard policy and risk assessment method to evaluate potential risk from UAVs applications.



OPP Considerations of UAVs

- Recognize potential benefits such as reduction in worker exposure, targeted applications, reduce environmental loading
- Recognize potential challenges around policy, data/modeling needs for risk assessment, safety and compliance
- General areas OPP engaging on:
 - Exposure (Occupational and Wildlife)
 - Drift modeling
 - Crop Residues
 - Efficacy





OPP Engagement on UAVs

- OPP has various divisional workgroups reviewing this topic and is also either a member of or in communication with several regulatory and non-regulatory groups working to address uncertainties related to these new technologies as data becomes available.



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EPA/OPP Lead Engagement

- Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee – Emerging Technology Workgroup
 - Provided EPA feedback on how to obtain a greater understanding of emerging agricultural technology; how it may reduce or increase risks that differ from those resulting from current methods; and what, if any, label changes might be needed
 - [Final Report: Emerging Agricultural Technologies Workgroup Report and Recommendations for PPDC Review \(epa.gov\)](#)
 - Workgroup continuing in 2022/23 with revised charge questions
 - One focus is on UAV: off-site movement (including benchmark UAV type & spray system), BMPs / use conditions



Other OPP Engagement on UAVs

- Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Workgroup on drones
 - 2021 – release a Report on the State of Knowledge on UASS in Agriculture – [OECD Paper](#)
 - 2022/23 – continue work on identifying data needs, modeling efforts, BMPs
- Industry Task Force: generating off-site drift data with UAVs
- CLA group on drones: evaluating currently available data for off-site drift and non-target exposure
- Engagement with other North America regulatory partners



Stakeholder Engagement

- OPP is interested in feedback in areas such as:
 - Understand scope of products and use patterns that are being used/requested for UAV applications
 - UAV and spray system configurations: what is being used now and what is anticipated in future
 - Label interpretation questions, for example:
 - Boom length to rotor specifications; nozzle configurations
 - Applicability of instructions for fixed wing and helicopter application methods to UAVs
 - Operator/pilot instructions
 - Compliance and Safety



Thank You!