

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 Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture on May 16th & 17th, 2023. All the states in the region (OK, AR, LA, TX, NM) as well as 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 has received 10 dicamba complaints to date for FY23.

Louisiana-LDAFF received 0 dicamba complaints. LDAFF staffing is improving and getting some key positions filled.

New Mexico-No dicamba concerns, fully staffed in the field but office staff is still down, addressing C&T comments, NM had a bill that completely banned the use of neonics, the bill failed but will come back.

Oklahoma-ODAFAFF reported 95 complaints, no dicamba complaints. C&T plan has been submitted with final edits, ODAFAFF held 2 unwanted pesticide disposals collecting over 40 thousand pounds of unwanted pesticides.

Texas- TDA reported due to recent population shift they are adding inspectors. TDA recently revised some of their structural pesticide rules. TDA has only received 64 complaints to date in FY23.

Choctaw Nation-The Choctaw Nation is continuing their pollinator outreach. This is their first year to have a cooperative agreement.

Region 6 Discussions to Specific SFIREG Topics

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 they have addressed all comments, the plans have either been submitted or very close to being submitted.

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.

Dicamba:

Region 6 states for the most part have seen no issues except for Arkansas. Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico have not received any complaints in FY 23. All states have reported that the dicamba training numbers have declined.

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:

UAV

Most of the region 6 states are getting questions about UAV's. Current they are certified like the normal aerial category. States are getting questions about efficacy and if label requirements can be met.

Sulfuryl Fluoride

Texas noted that in the most recent decision there is an added efficacy requirement that was not in the original decision. Efficacy is not defined as to what efficacy it is asking for. Also, it is understood that this is end use efficacy, what is expected, how is this enforced?

Referrals

While Region 6 states do not get a lot of referrals or refer many cases to the region there has been some concerns. Texas has referred the same product to the region multiple times over the past three years with little to no response. A few of the states have received referrals from the region, often times the complaints are months old before the states get them from the region.