

USDA Update on Recent FIFRA-ESA Work

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SFIREG-JWC Spring Meeting

April 2024

FIFRA-ESA Releases and Workshops

- Workplan and Workplan Update - 2022
- Draft Vulnerable Species Pilot Project - 2023
- Draft Herbicide Strategy - 2023
- Draft Rodenticide Strategy - 2023
- MOU between EPA and USDA re: NRCS standards - February 2024
- Offsets workshop hosted by CLA - February 2024
- Hawaii Strategy workshop - March 2024

Positive Developments

- Update to VSPP - Nov 2023
- Herbicide Strategy revisions based on stakeholder comments - ongoing consideration of additional mitigation options and revision of point values in mitigation menu
- Enhanced conversations with the states - ongoing
- Discussions between EPA and NRCS on MOU implementation
- PULA refinement process workshop - April 22, 2024
- Mitigation workshop co-hosted by EPA and USDA - May 9, 2024

Challenges

- Consistent approach across different strategies and projects
- Keeping stakeholders up to date in a constantly moving landscape
- Preparing for education, training, and enforcement in advance of finalized label restrictions
- Mitigation menu
 - Ensuring consistent mitigation menu options for specialty crop growers, especially since existing technical and financial assistance are not typically directed toward them
 - Making sure that growers get credit for prior and ongoing conservation efforts
 - Setting up future research and technology development for success – what is the standard required to prove efficacy?

Priorities

- Grower voices at the table
- EPA taking stakeholder concerns into account in their decisions
- Reasonable, workable outcomes
- Sufficient time for implementation

Questions?

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