

## Region 4 SFIREG Report

### Derrick Lastinger (GA), Region 4 SFIREG Representative

The Region 4 Spring Pre-SFIREG meeting was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024, in Raleigh, NC. This in-person meeting also provided a virtual link for those who wished to attend virtually. All states in the Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) were in attendance, and EPA regional leadership staff were in attendance as well. This meeting also included a separate Lab Directors Track, with special sessions and opportunities for interstate cooperation and idea sharing for those on that track.

### Updates given during the meeting by our EPA Region 4 partners:

- + EPA Region 4 Land Chemicals and Redevelopment Division Update (Gracy Danois)
- + Grants & Certification & Training Update (Richard Corbett)
- + EPA Product Registration (Jenny Wren)
- + WPS Update (Michelle Diaz Laboy)
- + EPA Region 4 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division Update (Kimberly Bingham, Alan Annicella, Kim Tonkovich)
- + Pollinator Protection (Linda Purvis)
- + Fall Pre-SFIREG Update (John Pitcock, NCDACS & Richard Corbett)

### Topics covered in the meeting by SLA personnel were:

- + Panel Discussion on ESA (Dr. Stanley Culpepper, UGA, Jan Matuszko, EPA (virtual), Jennifer Wren, EPA R4, Dr. Bill Chism, WSSA ESA Committee Chair, John Brausch, BASF, Gary Bahr, WSDA & Julie Henshaw, NCDACS Soil and Water Conservation – Beth Dittman (moderator), NCDACS)
- + SFIREG/POM/EQI Updates (Gary Bahr, Pat Farquhar, Beth Dittman)
- + R4 Commodity Fumigation Training (Ryan Okey)
- + SFIREG Special Topics (Derrick Lastinger, Steve Dwinell)
- + QR Code CEU Course Attendance/Bar Codes (Alan Estes, John Feagans)
- + School IPM Project (Ali Ikner)
- + National & Regional Training Updates (Kelly Engle, Rick Hayes, Pat Jones)
- + AAPCO Update (Kelly Friend)
- + ASPCRO Update (John Pitcock)

### Topics presented in the Lab Directors Track:

- + Managing Laboratory Moves, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Reagan Converse)
- + Deep Dive Lab Tour (STASC Laboratories, Reagan, Converse)
- + Laboratory Discussions (Group)
  - o ISO Accreditation for FIFRA Work
  - o Method Validation Work
  - o Legal Defensibility and Testimonial Prep (Ashley Pierce, Patty Lucas, Nausheena Baig)
  - o Calculating Measurement Uncertainty in Pesticide Cases
  - o Recruitment/Retention and Hiring Challenges
  - o Difficult Matrices
  - o Communication Tools/Processes
- + AAPCO Lab Committee Overview (Ashley Pierce)

### Primary Issues Discussed by States:

During the meeting, as customary, there was a states-only session where items of concern needing to be taken forward to the Region and Headquarters were discussed. During this session, the main topics of discussion among various states in the region were PSEP involvement, Certification and Training Plan implementation, concerns with grant disbursements, ESA impacts and BLT issues, and communication between headquarters and SLAs. These discussions are summarized below.

*PSEP Involvement:* States agreed unanimously to involve PSEPs in the upcoming Fall Pre-SFIREG. Many states stated their PSEPs are already heavily involved, and others emphasized the crucial aid coming from the PSEPs in production of study materials and guides.

*C&T Plan Implementation:* States had varying responses regarding the challenges presented by C&T plan implementation depending on the degree to which these changes affected their existing policies and procedures. Many commented that they felt uncertain of how updates would be made going forward and the actual impact it would have on their processes. Several states also discussed the considerable burden of updating manuals, guides, trainings, and exams. Richard Corbett with the EPA stated that guidance is expected to be made available later this Fall.

*Grant Disbursements:* Mr. Corbett provided information to the SLA's regarding the EPA's eight percent budget cut across the board on the program side, with changes to the enforcement budget yet to be announced. States also discussed the proposed five-year grant renewal cycle, though generally states responded with concern that this could lead to challenges with accounting, "feast or famine" budgeting, and increased administrative burdens. In response, states communicated an interest in further discussion with decision makers and suggested considering a shift to a July/June fiscal schedule.

*ESA/BLT Concerns:* ESA continues to be a topic of considerable debate. States discussed potential methods for enhancing the data used to establish PULAs. Methods to meet proposed mitigation strategies were also considered, as well as addressing enforcement responsibilities. Education and outreach remain key areas that many feel can impact the success of ESA implementation. Additionally, states emphasized the need to improve the accessibility and functionality of the BLT system to address issues related to impractical reports, usability in areas without internet access, and awareness of system updates. States also underscored the importance of receiving notifications of updates prior to their release to effectively respond to public inquiries.

*Communications:* States raised concerns regarding the timeliness of communications, citing instances where they received only a few hours' notice for meetings, often without prior indication of the topics to be discussed. Additionally, states highlighted problems arising from the public receiving information before SLAs, which hampers their ability to prepare and respond effectively. To address these issues, states requested improvements in timely communication, earlier involvement in the decision-making process, and the establishment of notification systems for important updates and proposals on the docket.

## SFIREG Questions sent to the States and SLA Responses

The questions sent out to states for individual responses are summarized below. If a state had no issues or remarks on a particular item, those responses are not recorded.

### 1. **C&T Plan Implementation**

**Alabama:** PSEP Contact - Sonja Thomas

**Florida:** PSEP Contact(s) - Brett Bultemeier (UF/IFAS PSEP) [bwbult@ufl.edu](mailto:bwbult@ufl.edu), Jay Ferrell [jferrell@ufl.edu](mailto:jferrell@ufl.edu), & Emily Kraus [emilyckraus@ufl.edu](mailto:emilyckraus@ufl.edu)

Invitation Response - FDACS has shared the invitation with the above PSEP team on 4/5/2024

**Georgia:** Clarified on the Region C&T/PSEP Call that this invite for PSEPs was intended for the Fall meeting in Kentucky

**Kentucky:** PSEP Contact – Riccardo Bessin with the University of KY.

Invitation Response - We have invited him per your request but have not heard his decision yet.

**Mississippi:** PSEP Contact - Gene Merkl, Mississippi State University, [gm53@msstate.edu](mailto:gm53@msstate.edu)

Invitation Response - Gene plans to attend remotely. Please provide link.

**North Carolina:** PSEP contact - Wayne Buhler, NCSU PSEP

Invitation Response - Wayne responded that he is certainly interested and hopes that it will work out on his schedule.

**South Carolina:** PSEP contact is Katie Moore. Katie is already involved and has met with the region

**Tennessee:** TN UT PSEP is participating in these conversations and meetings.

### 2. **ESA Workplan and Strategy Implementation**

**Alabama:** Beyond the scope of our knowledge and due to lack of SLA resources, not likely to receive much attention. Agency does not have information of the efficacy of programs preventing pesticides from entering surface water and does not currently participate in existing product stewardship programs.

**Florida:** Listed programs are still active. The Best Management Practices (BMPs) for this program are in the process of being updated.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) is responsible for monitoring participation or implementation in these programs.

FDACS does not have any role in monitoring or implementing these programs, it is all handled by OAWP.

To monitor/verify implementation in these programs, participants are checked for compliance and verified every two years. FDACS representatives will ensure the proper implementation of

the applicable BMPs for the enrolled property and review the required records that producers must maintain to demonstrate compliance with the BMPs.

4.7 of the 7.2 million statewide agricultural acres are enrolled in the program. More information can be found at the Office of Agricultural Water Policy's website, <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy>

Our division does not have any information on the efficacy of these programs in preventing pesticides or nutrients from entering surface water, but OAWP should have data for this.

Florida participates in the Aldicarb stewardship program which requires producers obtain a permit from FDACS prior to use. Our division reviews and grants permits to producers who would like to use the product. Employees review permit submissions, application area, property data, well locations and soil maps. <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Pesticide-Licensing/Aldicarb-Permits>

**Georgia:** Listed programs are still active. The Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (<https://www.gacd.us/>) and the Georgia Association of RC&D Councils (<https://www.garcdc.org/>) are responsible for monitoring participation or implementation in these programs.

The GDA does not currently have a role in monitoring or implementing these programs, participation is monitored by the organizations.

We anticipate verifying participation in soil and water conservation programs through cooperation with the conservation program supervisors and observations during inspections. Recommend recordkeeping requirements and possibly photo verification.

Our division does not have any information on the efficacy of these programs in preventing pesticides or nutrients from entering surface water.

Our division participates in existing stewardship programs through cooperation with UGA extension. Every spring we present "Using Pesticide Wisely" trainings throughout the state, with various topics addressed, including drift/runoff mitigation, ESA, buffer zones, label changes, specific product requirements like Dicamba and Paraquat. Normally average between two to three thousand attendees being trained by the end of all the trainings, on average 15 to 20 trainings will be conducted.

**Kentucky:** Listed programs are still in operation (KY Ag Water Quality). A KDA employee (not from the Pesticides Division) sits on the board.

**Mississippi:** State led soil and water conservation programs include MS Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Mississippi, Mississippi Ducks Unlimited.

Mississippi does not currently have a role in monitoring or implementing these programs.

For more information on the level of participation in these programs among crop producers/growers/ranchers visit the listed organizations websites.

We anticipate verifying participation in soil and water conservation programs through USDA and SWCC.

**North Carolina:** Listed programs are still in operation, please note it is the Agriculture Cost Share Program (not Agricultural) and the correct website: [Soil & Water - ACSP | NC Agriculture](#)

The state agency responsible for monitoring implementation of these programs is the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Soil and Water Conservation

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) oversees this program. There are [rules](#) that govern the program and DSWC staff approve contracts and requests for payments. Enrolled cooperators sign a contract with the Department and funds are paid after certification of the installed conservation practice meets the planning/design standards. Practices have up to a 10-year maintenance agreement, depending on the practice.

Districts are required to spot check 5% of contracts under maintenance. The DSWC conducts program reviews of each district every 5 years. The Department has the formal contracting process as outlined in the [Funding Process Flow Chart](#). There is also a non-compliance process that is used when BMPs are no longer functioning as designed and are still under maintenance.

For more information on the degree of participation in these programs refer to the [FY2023 Annual Report](#).

Verification of participation in soil and water conservation programs can be done via data from the [cost share contracting system](#).

To verify participation the DSWC will need a formal request so that are providing the correct information from our online cost share contracting system.

DSWC has a workgroup that is developing recommendations for tool use and improvement for estimating nutrient reductions. Also refer to the [FY2023 Annual Report](#)

**South Carolina:** South Carolina does not currently have a role in monitoring or implementing these programs.

**Tennessee:** Listed programs are still in operation, however TDA does not have a role in monitoring these programs. Currently discussing how to verify participation in soil and water conservation programs.

### 3. ***Bulletins Live Two (BLT)***

**Alabama:** Alabama becomes aware of changes to BLT by periodically checking the BLT site. State-specific alerts/emails when changes occur would be useful.

**Florida:** Tracking BLTs relative to compliance issues but has not had any issues reported or observed related to BLTs. Staff check the website the 1st of each month for new additions.

For improvements, a notice to SLAs when large additions are added to a state would be a good start. As it stands, huge changes to pesticide usage in a state, in the form of PULAs, can happen overnight without the SLA's knowledge.

**Georgia:** In regard to BLTs relative to compliance issues, applicators having issues accessing the information due to internet issues, not smart phone friendly. They also seem to get confused on how the information is being presented on the site.

We become aware of changes to BLTs through email announcements, but the average applicators don't seem to be getting that information in a timely manner.

A database of released updates, just showing a timeline would be useful. Registrants could also get involved notifying point of sale/distributors that there are "label changes" so more information is available to the applicators more quickly.

**Mississippi:** In 2017-2018 the use of Xtendimax/Engenia led to efforts to educate users of those products to BLT. We have not documented compliance issues since that time. Currently our inspectors are covering BLT during routine records and use inspections. BLT is also included in private applicator training.

Changes to the BLTs are monitored by checking the site itself. A way to track BLT changes and requirements would be beneficial.

**North Carolina:** BLT is rarely used in compliance cases. To our knowledge, until recently the only active Bulletin for NC was for over-the-top use of dicamba. North Carolina rarely receives complaints that require investigation into compliance for this use of dicamba. New Bulletins are available for chlorpyrifos and malathion but are a result of 2024 BiOps and have not resulted in any compliance issues currently.

NC learns of changes to BLTs via EPA announcement emails. Monthly (or quarterly) emails with state-specific information, including any new or changed bulletins that have maps of the new or updated PULAs would be helpful. This would allow the SLA to provide targeted education to regions of the state that may be more heavily impacted by new restrictions.

**South Carolina:** Experiencing complaints and concerns about the accessibility, clarity, and enforceability of the bulletins. SC becomes aware of changes to BLT through state special programs and ESA coordinator – Tammy Lognion or PSEP – Katie Moore

**Tennessee:** TDA's experience with BLTs relative to compliance issues has involved looking up the species and identifying what it is and where it is if asked. TDA has not had any compliance issues.

Consistent notifications when there are changes would be useful.

#### 4. ***Dicamba***

**Florida:** Florida has had no reported cases of damage for OTT dicamba use.

**Georgia:** Biggest question we are getting is, will there be an OTT Dicamba registered and available for next year.

No incidents yet this year, had a situation last year reported to GDA - one applicator drifted onto three complaint sites during one main dicamba application.

**Kentucky:** Would like to know if it will be available in 2025.

**Mississippi:** What happens NEXT YEAR when we know that most of the soybean seed available will be Dicamba tolerant but now LEGAL over the top products are available?

**North Carolina:** We hope there is a quick solution for a legal option in 2025. It could get messy...

#### 5. ***Chlorpyrifos***

**Georgia:** Had inquiries about products still available to be used this season on peanuts and onions. Also had discussion about alternative products for Chlorpyrifos for bedbugs in chicken houses. No concerns or that need to be raised to EPA at this time.

**North Carolina:** It was difficult to find accurate information early in the process. It has gotten a little better, but it is still confusing for the growers.

**South Carolina:** Questions from growers regarding use patterns. Confusion about use. More clarity on the use based on the vacated decision is needed.

**Tennessee:** The only issue that comes is disposal of the product, relative to cost for the state.

#### 6. ***Paraquat Label Mandated Training***

**Georgia:** Decision caused some disruption and upset some applicators. To provide options for this training our PSEP and extension approached Syngenta who agreed to host some webinar series that EPA approved to meet the training requirements. I believe, the plan is for Syngenta to create their own registrant training module for their website soon.

**North Carolina:** The \$25 cost is seen as excessive because they're only paying \$10/3yrs for their Private Applicator cards.

Syngenta is offering the online Paraquat training at no cost

We are meeting with our PSEP to discuss whether we should limit the percentage of online vs in person trainings that we allow applicators to attend.

**South Carolina:** PSEP works with registrants to develop training.

**Tennessee:** Working with PSEP on training.

## 7. ***Biostimulant registration***

**Florida:** There have not been any products proposed for registration requiring label statement evaluations for biostimulants specifically; however, we received a fertilizer sample that also contained numerous soil amending ingredients, and are planning to send these types of labels to the Pesticide Registration section to see if any of the soil amending ingredients are on the list as a registered pesticide.

Consider working closely with AAPFCO to be sure there is no conflict between EPA's guidance and their model regulations for beneficial substances (ie biostimulants).

**Mississippi:** Mississippi has had two biostimulant products proposed for registration requiring label statement evaluations.

**North Carolina:** In August 2023, North Carolina received an inquiry from AgroWorld Precision Agriculture Inc. regarding two of their biostimulant products – BioFlavv and BioSignall. We compared the label language to the information in the EPA's Draft Guidance for Plant Regulator Products and Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants document. We found that some label language did appear to cross over to pesticidal claims. Copies of the labeling along with our findings were forwarded to Gina Burnett (EPA) for further review and guidance. Ms. Burnett advised that, in cases such as this, the registrants should submit a M009 application to the EPA for further analysis of the labeling and claims. She also found some language to be concerning. We notified AgroWorld of Ms. Burnett's instructions. We have not heard anything else from AgorWorld.

If possible, it would be helpful to move the draft document to a final document.

## 8. ***Pesticide Registration Decisions***

**Florida:** Interested in the final decision on neonicotinoids.

**Georgia:** Interested in the final decision on 2,4-D, Diuron, fipronil

**North Carolina:** Interested in outcome for Chlorpyrifos (esp. loss of apples), Ethylene Oxide (loss of bee equipment use).

**South Carolina:** Interested in Dicamba, paraquat decisions. What is the status for registration review for fipronil?

## State Summaries Submitted for the Pre-SFIREG Meeting, Spring 2024

### Alabama

- + **Budget:** Budget is stable for 2025.
- + **Staffing:** Two vacancies currently for Professional Service (Structural) inspectors. We are also short one person in pesticide product registration. The Pesticide Residue Laboratory Director position is vacant. We are having a hard time trying to fill positions.
- + **Legislative/Rules:** Gearing up to make the changes in rules/regs necessary as a result of the new C&T rule and as outlined in the new C&T Plan approved for Alabama.

The Governor signed Executive Order 735 to reduce the "red tape" citizens and businesses must navigate by placing a moratorium on new rulemaking by executive branch agencies and establishing goals for the reduction in discretionary regulatory restrictions on citizens and



businesses contained in the Alabama Administrative Code by 25 percent. This may make the C&T changes more difficult than initially anticipated.

- + **Significant Cases/Issues:** In a previous case ADAI was able to finalize Revocation on a company that sought assistance through the appeals court. Ultimately ADAI prevailed in the court's decision. Since that time ADAI learned the company has continued doing business. The company owner passed away and his previous employees have continued to perform regulated work regardless of not possessing Certification and Professional Service Permits as well as ignoring the courts action against them. The local DA's Office and other local authorities have chosen not to engage or assist ADAI in the matter. ADAI is now seeking guidance and assistance from the Alabama Attorney General's office.

Here's a short brief on a pest control company who is performing deficient work and does not have the resources to perform adequate work including the performance of subterranean termite annual inspections. The company has roughly 8,700 renewable subterranean termite contracts and does not have the personnel (MAXIMUM OF 3) to perform the required annual inspections. I've issued an Order against them recently and our follow-up work so far has shown a continuous timeline of faulty work and the inability to correct. ADAI is seeking guidance and assistance from the Alabama Attorney General's Office.

- + **Structural:** The Professional & Regulatory Services section is currently interviewing for Agriculture Consumer Protection Specialist/Investigators (ACPS) to replace the vacancies left by former employees seeking other job opportunities and retirement. Current salary ranges and benefits packages in Alabama seem to be below other job markets. ADAI is seeking employees in North Alabama and South Alabama.
  - **Structural Staff Hiring & Training:** (\*Update See below) We plan to fill two ACPS Investigator positions available for Montgomery and Madison County. We will continue to make basic & advanced long-term training available to all employees to ensure ADAI provides high quality individuals and services to the public and industry. ACPS Training Modules will be developed and utilized for Inspector Training in the classroom. Field experience will be provided to ACPS Inspectors to ensure their understanding of the duties and responsibilities associated with the ACPS Structural Investigator position. ADAI will send structural staff to Federal, State, and other affiliated structural training when available.
    - \* The Structural Program now has a Biologist II, with and Entomology option that was appointed to an existing employee. The Commissioner has approved the request and it is not in State Personnel for review.
  - **Industry Training:** An update (\* see below) ADAI will be significantly involved in the concept, design, build and operational portions of the Structural Training, Education and Research Facility that is currently being discussed with Auburn and their BOD to build and operate the facility on the campus of Auburn University. It is my position ADAI should be heavily involved in the training programs of regulated industry and that we invest in regulating through education and training. ADAI will heavily concentrate on protecting the public through education for regulated services provided by industry. Education will better ensure proper applications and help prevent wrongful treatments or misapplications that can cause damage to people, property and the environment.

Protecting humans, domestic and wild animals while safeguarding the environment can be achieved through properly planned training. We will also provide onsite training to regulated industries at the time ADAI inspections are being conducted on their business facilities and during consumer complaints.

\* A needs document has been put together and is now up for review to those at Auburn University for their consideration. To date there has been no forward movement on the training center.

- **Equipment:** Our goal is to possess, maintain and update all common equipment needs for field personnel to include vehicles, computer, digital camera and other common and technical tools as well as clothing and other apparel including personal protective equipment to promote professionalism and safety of our employees. We plan to possess, maintain and update all common equipment for in-house personnel to include computer and other common and technical tools to enhance our ability to perform all duties from initializing and processing consumer complaints, processing Certification and Professional Service permits to the enforcement of regulated individuals and companies. We also wish to possess our own copy, scan, print and recovery devices and programs to more efficiently proceed in processing of consumer complaints. We also wish to be equipped to operate in our duties and responsibilities in the event of an emergency and/or stay at home orders.
- **Litigation Relief:** An update (\* see below) The purpose of this area of interest is to establish policies and procedures to seek relief in ADAI being weaponized in private/civil litigation. Professional & Regulatory Service section and employees are called to court, arbitration hearings and depositions for consumer complaint cases the Department may or may not have been involved through the consumer complaint process. ADAI attendance in depositions, arbitrations and court appearances are mandated through a court issued subpoena. Open Record Act (ORA) requests are common on multiple days of each week in the Professional & Regulatory Service section. ORA's can be simple or overly complex and burdensome resulting in gross loss of time. One ORA request in 2021 resulted in over 200 hours of time ADAI lost in the production of requested documents. I will continue to seek relief assistance in establishing Laws that would disallow our agency from being utilized by private/civil litigators in matters where ADAI are not a parties of the suit, or cases in which ADAI are not pursuing as a result of our own enforcement purposes.

\* This work is still in the process for development. With the recent E/O's of the Alabama Governor, ADAI continues to work to comply with all laws as well as working to reduce ORA requests that are unclear, overly broad and overreaching.

\*ADAI requested an Opinion from The Office of the Attorney General seeking guidance for ORA or FOYA requests. The Attorney General did provide an opinion as it relates to documents that are and are not discoverable through an ORA or FOYA request. The

opinion has provided relief in that there are fewer ORA or FOYA requests; as well, there are fewer documents that have to be produced. On other note is that ADAI only provides discoverable documents for review and to be copied by the requesting party. ADAI is not providing any copy services and the requesting party must provide their own scanner or copy device, paper and CD's in order for them to possess any of the documents they are seeking.

- + **C&T:** ADAI is working to make the necessary changes in order to begin implementation of the approved plan.
- + **WPS:** Status quo
- + **Endangered Species:** ADAI keeps three bulletins on the website updated each month showing the affected areas of the state and a table with pesticide AI/Product(s) with use limitations for the indicated areas on the map.
- + **Water Quality:** ADAI is currently under contract with USGS to conduct ground water sampling in Alabama. USGS is compiling a 5-year summary report that will be complete by the end of the fiscal year. Active sampling will occur once again in FY2024. ADAI is considering expanding our testing to include some surface water sites in the future and is discussing with USGS currently.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** ADAI hosted two pesticide collections in FY2024: Shorter, AL (26,467 lbs.) and Foley, AL (47,153 lbs.) for a combined total of 73,620 lbs. of chemicals were collected for disposal. ADAI plans to host one in November 2024.
- + **Container Recycling:** US Ag is no longer the contractor ACRC. Weight totals for 2022 and 2023 were never reported to us from US Ag. ACRC has said they will have a new contractor in place and begin container pick-up in Alabama by June 2024, but the new contractor has not been disclosed yet.
- + **Special Programs/Initiatives:** We are planning an organizational restructuring for the programs with Pesticides, Professional Services, the Pesticide Residue Lab and Plant Industries. This reorganization will be focused on building in additional structure for succession planning and capacity building. We are also looking at salary ranges and additional classifications.

Still working on new online application to handle day to day business. The system will include product registration, certification, and business licensing. We will also be moving to electronic inspections at this time.

- + **New Issues/Concerns:** Feral hog bait has become something that keeps coming up in Alabama. Kaput, which Texas registered has come up in Alabama as well as another product that uses sodium nitrite
- + **Fee Changes:** Nothing to report
- + **Pesticide Registration:** Still need to hire for a vacant position.

## Florida

- + **Budget:** No budget update at this time.
- + **Staffing:** The laboratory bureau has filled three of its four vacant Chemist positions. These positions analyze investigative/environmental samples for pesticides by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) and liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS).
- + **Legislative/Rules:** Chapter 482 Pest Control had several changes put forth in the 2024 Florida legislative session that, if signed by the Governor, will go into effect on July 1, 2024. Some of

these changes included gaining authority to do rulemaking as related to cheating on an examination and lying on an application, WDO Contract requirement updates, enhanced description for products and sites for limited commercial landscape maintenance certification, and changing the recertification period as related to structural pest control certificates which shortens the amount of time a certificate holder has to renew before a retest is required.

- + **C&T:** FDACS has a new rules coordinator on board who will be fully involved in C&T Rule Revisions. The Department has started to outline which rule changes will be required and are working with FL's PSEP to determine manual revision needs/timelines, etc. Legislative changes as related to C&T did not happen this session.
- + **WPS:** WPS outreach remains a priority. FDACS continues the distribution of printed materials and WPS-PST audiovisual materials (DVDs) in English, Spanish and Kreyol. Approximately 250 "Pesticide Safety Information" posters were distributed together with "How to Comply" and "Respiratory Protection" manuals. "WPS Posters" and training materials on Kreyol language are now available as the demand has increased. The Department in conjunction with UF/IFAS are offering an online EPA approved "Train the Trainer" (TTT) program in English and Spanish languages. This program has taken special relevance as the primary resource for TTT certification, since in person classes are still very limited. More than 520 participants have benefited using this resource for their Train the Trainer certification needs. Additionally, we just publish a course on "Respiratory Protection" and WPS requirements. The course provides valuable information to improve the safety of pesticide applicators while using a respirator. After the course, participants should know how to manage a respiratory protection program, implement respirator fit testing, and select the correct respirator based on the label requirements. We continue trainings efforts in coordination with Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA), who operates a "Head Start/Early" daycare for migrants and seasonal low-income families in Florida. The Department provided pesticide safety training, information about human trafficking in agriculture, PPE and how suspected incidents can be reported. Farmworker families and advocacy organizations were trained and provided with several resources in Spanish language. Our program increased outreach activities in regard of heat related illnesses while applying pesticides and/or using PPE. Procedures are in place to enable coordination and follow-up on reports of occupational pesticide exposure, and incidents or illnesses that may be related to pesticide use/misuse. Additionally, compliance assistance activities have increased during this year in coordination with the enforcement section. Staff also participated on EPA organized activities like: EPA Region IV WPS Stakeholder meeting, "Lunch and Learn" programs and EPA Visit to Immokalee area in coordination with Farmworkers Association of Florida (FWAF).
- + **Endangered Species:** FDACS is following the ESA pesticide situation closely. Staff have met with EPA numerous times over the past year both at EPA headquarters and via virtual meetings. Staff sit on national workgroups focused on ESA issues and continue to attend meetings and webinars with national, state, and industry stakeholders when available.

The Scientific Evaluation Section and the Entomology and Pest Control Section Outreach team are developing a web page specific to providing resources for the coming Endangered Species Act changes to pesticide usage, Bulletins Live 2, and best management practices for Florida producers. The page will provide an overview and links to resources to assist the agriculture industry with implementing ESA strategies.

- + **Water Quality:** There are no new pesticide issues for ground or surface waters.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** Operation cleansweep has picked up a total of 19,776 lbs as of April 10th from 31 end users.
- + **Special Programs/Initiatives:**
  - **Mosquito Control:** In November, 2023 5E-13 of the Florida Statutes was updated, adding new language specific to threshold requirements and response to public health notifications to determine pesticide applications specific to mosquito control.

Staff continue with online webinars during the spring and summer months, providing many fiscally constrained counties an opportunity for employees to obtain necessary CEUs to maintain public health pest control licensure. The first training this year involved the new Integrated Mosquito Management Plan form. This form documents how MCPs will be using IMM techniques when controlling mosquitoes.

- **Formosan Termite and Bed Bug Outreach:** This past February, the EPCS team conducted their third outreach event at the Florida State Fair. Approximately 5,350 individuals ranging from preschool through senior citizens learned how to protect and prevent bed bugs and termites. The team is preparing to branch out to conduct bed bug outreach to the home health care field and tourism representatives.
- **Pollinator Protection Program:** Staff are currently working to assemble resources and update the existing web pages to provide relevant data for both honey bees and also native bees. These pages will also outline the state's new Pollinator Protection Plan. Along with this, outreach continues to both beekeepers and mosquito control. This past fall, presentations were given at the Florida State Beekeepers annual workshop about mosquito control, licensure requirements to use Amitraz, and integrated pest management.
- **Invasive Conehead Termite Eradication Program:** In January, the team worked with representatives from Broward County and AES staff to conduct an expanded survey in the area around the current infestation. Teams surveyed new areas in efforts to identify new areas. During this event, three nests were found. In working with contractors, these nests were surveyed and destroyed. The ongoing efforts are working to reduce the expansion into areas outside of the known infestation.
- + **New Issues/Concerns:** ESA on state emergency response and support for mosquito control from tropical storms and hurricanes
- + **Pesticide Registration:** Florida has approximately 17145 pesticide brands registered. Review of registration requests: FDACS continued to review product brand registration requests, assuring compliance with statutes. Specific review activities are explained below. Review of marketplace labels: FDACS continued to review new pesticide labels and changes on existing product brand labels. Where problems were found that violated Florida pesticide laws and rules, FDACS notified the registrants and EPA. Coordinate review of special registrations: This included 2 SLNs, and 4 NAIs. These registrations were reviewed by the Department and other affected state agencies through the Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee. This Committee convened on 3 occasions. The Registration Review Section submitted for EPA review and approval of a Section 18 emergency exemptions registration. Clothianidin (BELAY) was re-certified to manage the transmission of greening caused by the Asian citrus psyllid on immature citrus trees.

## Georgia

- + **Staffing:** Ag Pesticide Program - Fully staffed with the following positions: Pesticide Program Manager, Pesticide Complaint Coordinator, Pesticide Certification & Training Assistant, Pesticide Product Registration Assistant, Pesticide Special Projects Coordinator, two Field Supervisors, 16 Field Inspectors. Structural Pest is also fully staffed.
- + **Legislative/Rules:** [Georgia Pesticide Use and Application Act](#)  
[Pesticide Use and Application Regulations](#)  
[Georgia Anti-Syphon Device Act](#)
- + **Water Quality:** [Prevention of Ground and Surface Water Contamination Regulations](#)
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** Last Clean Day event – August 2023
- + **Container Recycling:** Last Clean Day event – August 2023
- + **Fee Changes:** None
- + **Pesticide Registration:** [Pesticide Registration](#)

## Kentucky

- + **Other Significant News:** Kentucky Department of Agriculture is now offering online pesticide exams!

## Mississippi

- + **Budget:** Flat
- + **Staffing:** Finally fully staffed...for now.
- + **Structural:** A regulation requiring a written request for homeowners for bait “pretreats” has been removed.
- + **C&T:** Plan has been approved.
- + **Endangered Species:** Inspectors are demonstrating BLT to applicators. Some questions from stakeholders
- + **Water Quality:** Most recent samples show no areas of concern.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** 3 events since last Pre-SFIREG. Total pounds collected not reported yet.
- + **Pesticide Registration:** New online registration system is in use and working well.

## North Carolina

- + **Budget:** Lab equipment was purchased for the Food and Drug lab during the first half of FFY24. Our 9 month No-Cost Extension was approved during the 1st quarter with a 6/30/2024 end date. We have received and paid for almost all of the trucks purchased through this No-Cost Extension, with the exception of two trucks.
- + **Staffing:** NCDA&CS has been continuing to fill vacancies. We have come a long way in filling vacancies. During this reporting period, Katie Willett filled the Administrative Officer II position that was previously held by Karen Hunt. Doug Bullard accepted the Eastern District Manager position that was previously held by Pat Farquhar before he was promoted to Deputy Director of Pesticide Programs. Henry Hamilton filled the Agricultural Program Specialist I position that was previously held by Sydney Ross. That position handles complaints and 5700 reporting numbers. Carmina Hanson filled the Agricultural Program Specialist I (Bilingual Specialist/WPS) position that was previously held by Sergio Morales. We just hired a Structural Pest Control Inspector that started 4/15/24 and an Administrative Associate II (Pesticides) that started 4/16/24.

NCDA&CS currently has 5 vacancies. There are currently (3)- Pesticide Inspector I positions that are vacant. For these three Inspector I positions, candidates have been selected and are awaiting HR salary approval. There is currently (1)- Pesticide Inspector II position that is vacant. The requisition has been created, but position has not been posted yet. There is (1)- Administrative Specialist I- Admin support for Pesticides/Structural that is vacant. This was previously two separate positions and NCDA&CS is combining it into one. This is awaiting HR approval.

- + **Legislative/Rules:** We have discussed fee increases, hopefully it will be addressed in the long session of 2025. We are also looking into using debit/credit cards as payment of fees.

C&T Regulations are moving forward to the Rules Review Commission. Fun times ahead!

- + **Significant Cases/Issues:**

- Fall 2023

- Pesticides- In November 2023, the North Carolina Pesticide Board found Mr. Cordell in violation of all statutes presented in the settlement agreement. A fee of \$2,200 was assigned to Mr. Cordell related to his violation of provisions of NC Pesticide laws and regulations regarding the improper storage and disposal of a pesticide in 2021.
    - Structural- Mr. Cordell was found to be in violation of all the statutes presented in the settlement agreement with the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Committee. A fee of \$6,000 was assigned to Mr. Cordell related to his violation of provisions of NC Pesticide laws and regulations regarding structural applications that were advertised and performed without the appropriate license.
    - In November 2023 the photoshopped license case was closed, with fines of \$3,500, \$1,200 and \$800 being assigned to Mr. Steinbreuck, Mr. Heslin and Mr. Carr respectively. The fines related to their violations of provisions of NC Pesticide laws and regulations regarding the falsification of a pesticide license as well as the purchase and sale of RUPs without a valid license.

- Fall 2023-Spring 2024:

- We continue to receive numerous calls regarding backyard mosquito applications and the use of mothballs in outdoor settings to repel unwanted snakes, dogs, and other pests.

- + **Structural:**

Our vacant Inspector position in Western N.C. was just filled with a start date of April 15, 2024.

A Structural Pest Control Committee meeting was held on November 29, 2023. There were six settlement agreements approved with a penalty total of \$21,000. Proposed C&T Plan Rules revisions were discussed in detail. The Committee decided to table the approval of this rulemaking process until the N.C. Pest Management Association could address any concerns. This agenda item was discussed at the next Committee meeting which was held on April 3, 2024. The Committee voted to approve that our Division move forward with the C&T Plan Rules revision, rulemaking process.

Our team continues to work on the project to replace our current Inspection System with an

Ideagen/Smartforms Inspection system and we are hopeful to begin this transition in the near future.

We continue to work closely with the N.C. Pest Management Association & NCSU on our Registered Technician Training Program revision project. We have completed workbook revisions and will soon begin working on the 8 hour presentation revisions.

- + **C&T:** The C&T rule changes have been formally approved by the Pesticide Board & Structural Committee so they're ready to go to the Rules Review Commission. The upcoming rule changes have been included in our outreach presentations as well as the presentations given through the NC PSEP office.

We've reviewed all of our exams and just about completed the necessary revisions related to the upcoming C&T rule changes. We have released the new Forestry exam and have completed the Private Commodity Fumigation exam and we're about to assemble a exam review committee. Online testing is continuing to grow in popularity now that it's available for both sections.

We continue to struggle with job vacancies, but two of ours got filled at the end of this reporting period and the last one accepted our offer and is scheduled to begin shortly.

- + **WPS:** The Bilingual Pesticide Specialist (Carmina Hanson) worked closely with the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Extension Farmworker Health Program, as well as NC Department of Labor and NC Department of Commerce to put together 3 Farmworker Labor Contractor meetings in Eastern NC. The meetings took place during the month of October. During these meetings, our department covered a brief presentation on the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). This year we emphasized the importance of Pesticide Safety Training, the requirements to classify as a trainer, how to access as Train the Trainer program through PERC and what materials are available from PERC to conduct a successful Worker/Handler training program. The meetings reached an estimated 25 FLC participants.

In February, three representatives from our field staff part in the AMEXCAN (Association of Mexicans in North Carolina) Harvesting Solutions Agricultural Conference held on February 9th in Greenville, NC. There were over 50 attendees from different sectors that work in or serve the agricultural community in eastern NC. Among the participants were representatives from NCSU Extension, Health Clinics, NC Department of Health and Human Services, labor contractors and advocacy groups that work in Eastern NC. This was the first time that AMEXCAN has held this conference. AMEXCAN is interested in continuing this effort. Two members of our staff attended the annual NC Farmworker Institute Meeting that was held on March 21 in Chapel Hill, NC. The topic for this year's meeting was "Harvesting Justice: Farmworker Health & the Climate Crisis." During this conference, our office attended the listening sessions and participated in small group discussions. We also continued to build relationships with groups serving the farmworker community in our state.

Our WPS program is closely following the WPS rule regarding the AEZ. Our WPS program is closely following PRIA 5 and the new Spanish Label requirements and its implementation.



- + **Endangered Species:** NCDACS provided a public comment on EPA's "Draft Herbicide Strategy Framework to Reduce Exposure of Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Designated Critical Habitats from the Use of Conventional Agricultural Herbicides" (hereafter "Herbicide Strategy"), which presents significant challenges for growers, state-led agencies (SLAs), conservationists, and other stakeholders. SPCPD staff are actively involved in this topic and will be hosting a panel of stakeholders to discuss pesticides and ESA at the R4 pre-SFIREG meeting.

SPCPD staff continue to review draft biological evaluations for active ingredients as they are released, as well as reviewing any new restrictions in the state using Bulletins Live! Two.

- + **Water Quality:**

- **Groundwater Monitoring**

The SPCPD Drinking Water Survey for triazine herbicides and breakdown chemicals was available in North Carolina for farmers during this period. Well testing information is sent to newly certified private applicators and recertifying private applicators as a part of their renewal application. As a result, from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, 389 drinking well water survey letters were mailed to private applicators. A total of 32 well water sample collection kits were mailed to respondents of the survey. During the reporting period, 26 well samples were analyzed by the NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division laboratory with an atrazine immunoassay test kit using EPA SW-846 method #4670 for drinking water. All results were non-detect for triazine herbicides and associated breakdown products except for one that detected atrazine at 0.14 parts per billion. A second sample was taken by an NCDA Pesticide Inspector that came back at 0.15 parts per billion. These levels are well under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 3 parts per billion set by the EPA, below which, adverse effects on human health are unlikely.

- **Surface Water Monitoring Program**

NCDA&CS SPCPD staff checked the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's Water Quality Portal for any data collected from October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. During that period, surface water samples were collected by USGS from three different sites and were analyzed for 79 different pesticides or their degradants. Each site was sampled between four and six times. Forty-one active ingredients or their metabolites were detected, but all detections were below the EPA aquatic life benchmarks except for imidacloprid, fipronil, and dichlorvos.

- Imidacloprid was detected at all three sites a total of nine times (out of sixteen sample dates), ranging from 14.5 to 39 ng/L, which exceeds the imidacloprid chronic benchmark for aquatic invertebrates (10 ng/L) but is below the acute benchmarks for fish and aquatic invertebrates and the chronic benchmark for aquatic vertebrates.
    - Fipronil was detected at all three sites a total of thirteen times (out of sixteen sample dates), ranging from 0.95 to 11.9 ng/L, exceeding the chronic benchmark for aquatic invertebrates (11 ng/L) in only one sample, but below the acute benchmarks for fish and aquatic invertebrates and the chronic benchmark for aquatic vertebrates.

- Dichlorvos was detected once at two sites, ranging from 52 to 61 ng/L, exceeding both the chronic and acute benchmarks for invertebrates (5.8 and 33.4 ng/L, respectively), but below the acute and chronic benchmarks for aquatic vertebrates. Other samples taken at these sites were non-detect for dichlorvos.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** For FY24, the PDAP began with a strategically abbreviated schedule to prepare for a long year and a distressed budget. Despite the 10 highest collection years in Program history, and a record-setting collection season in FY22 (281K pounds), the NC's Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP) was forced to reduce services due to budget issues as it struggled to keep up with rising public demand.

Fortunately, for the first time in 20 years, an increase in budget was given to the NCDA&CS mid-Fall 2023 for the PDAP. With a budget in place, the PDAP began ramping up the schedule during the middle of the Fall 2023 collections with the remaining available dates and had its latest collections in mid-December. Due to former contract issues, the PDAP contract year ends in mid-March. And although the PDAP started the Spring 2024 season earlier than normal, both the State of NC and our disposal contractor were both using their own new financial system. These 2 new financial systems caused Purchase Order issues and a sluggish start to Yr3 of our Spring 2024 schedule and an unprecedented backlog of invoicing issues - including for the Fall 2023. Despite these problems, the PDAP continued to provide services to attempt to keep up with public demand and ramp up our collections in the spring. Over the past 5 years, PDAP is averaging over 195K pounds per fiscal year. Since its inception in 1980, PDAP has responsibly collected and disposed of almost 5 million pounds of unwanted, banned, or outdated pesticide products from NC. This past calendar year, the PDAP collected over 180K pounds of pesticides including almost 100K pounds collected during the Fall 2023 season alone. Currently, the Spring season has started strong with over 50K pounds of pesticides collected. FY25 includes the 3rd and final year (3/3) of our current disposal contract.

Outreach efforts include TPSA (The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance) and the (North and South) Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Council. The PDAP was active in the TPSA Membership Committee and serves on the Treated Seed sub-committee for TPSA and was also involved in several MB/IBC discussions at the 2024 Conference in early February 2024. Involvement with TPSA assists the PDAP with many topics relative to disposal issues nationwide and in NC. The PDAP also helped organize an HHW Workshop for the recently completed 2024 CRA Conference with the PDAP and state-wide HHW programs involved. PDAP also serves as HHW Council core-members and current Council President. The partnership with the HHW Council is vital as NC HHW interest remains strong and the number of HHW programs throughout the state continues to increase.

- + **Container Recycling:** The Pesticide Container Recycling Program currently has approximately 210 sites in NC where farmers and commercial applicators can recycle plastic pesticide containers that don't exceed 55 gallons in size. The containers were collected and granulated by two companies: USAg Recycling, Inc. and Ag Plastic Solutions. Processed materials are used to make industrial products. Even with challenges concerning consistent servicing during calendar year 2023, 461,737 pounds of pesticide containers were recycled from participating counties, thereby

recycling waste which would otherwise pose a risk of contamination to surface and ground water, in addition to taking up landfill space. Since its inception in 1995, over 11 million pounds of plastic pesticide containers have been recycled in North Carolina. Pesticide Inspector II's conducted audits of 79 county pesticide container recycling sites in 30 counties from October 2023 through March 2024, inspecting each site for cleanliness and number of containers, protection from rain, and working with county personnel on any issues found. During the reporting period, no grant proposals were received, and no funds were awarded to county programs.

- + **Special Programs/Initiatives:** We have begun new work on the Pollinator Videos and interactive training modules. Translation into Spanish and French is also included in the round two of the outreach project.
- + **New Issues/Concerns:** NAC
- + **Fee Changes:** Hopefully in 2025
- + **Pesticide Registration:**
  - SLNs:  
Received SLN request that would shorten the plant-back intervals when Reviton Herbicide is applied as a burn-down prior to planting peanuts. The intervals would be shortened from 120 days (1 ounce application) or 150 days (2 ounce application) to 0 days (1 ounce) or 7 days (2 ounces). Reviton Herbicide is a subregistration of Tiafenacil 339SC Herbicide. Only Reviton would be used. Request is currently under review.
  - Emergency Exemptions:  
No requests received.

Our department IT staff is working on a new registration system. We are a couple of months into the project. We have met with IT a few times to see their progress and provide input. Our current system is based on 1970's technology, so we are looking forward to this upgrade. Over time, we hope to offer in-house electronic registration options, such as online renewals & new product registrations, electronic renewal & certification notifications, and e-label posting. The new system will also allow us to search our data more efficiently.

## South Carolina

- + **Budget:** The state budget is stable at this time. Generated revenues remain stable.
- + **Staffing:** Field operations are fully staffed. The Department has one position in training which will conclude in 6-12 months. All others are performing a full complement of inspections. Support operations experienced a quick and sudden reduction in force with the resignation of 2 staff and upcoming retirement of 1 more. The Department is actively recruiting for all the positions and currently as extended offers to two qualified candidates to start June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- + **Legislative/Rules:** South Carolina submitted a notification for rule change during the 2024 legislative session. Change will include a general clean up, modifications to reflect current technology, mandatory licensing for ROW applications and restrictions to direct supervision. UPDATE – SC was notified that only changes related to emergency rules will be considered during this legislative session.
- + **Structural:** SC has seen a significant increase in the acquisition and merger of small/local companies by large corporate pest professional corporations. This has led to an increase in complaints (nonregulatory) from consumers. The complaints detail poor customer service and

professional standards. Customers complain about routing to a call center and speaking to robots.

+ **C&T:**

- **Plan**

South Carolina received a signed approval letter for the C&T plan on October 3, 2023. Implementation will begin in the 2025 legislative session with full compliance by December 31, 2029. DPR has continued to provide updates and online presentations across the state to educate South Carolina applicators on category specific recertification requirements, licensing protocol, examination process and keeping in compliance with state and federal pesticide regulations for South Carolina

- **Exams**

The Category 7A (Structural, Institutional, and Health-Related Pest Control) Manual is being revised.

- **Recertification**

DPR continues to approve all recertification courses/programs according to South Carolina's regulation requiring continuing education training hours for all pesticide applicators; private, commercial, and noncommercial. DPR also approves recertification courses that meet the category-specific recertification hour requirement for individuals licensed in the mandatory licensing categories: 3,5,7A, 7B and 8. The next five-year block for Commercial and noncommercial South Carolina pesticide applicators began 1/1/2024 & end 12/31/2028. Private applicators are presently in the last year of their five-year recertification accrual block which ends on 12/31/2024. South Carolina's Recertification program continues to expand, and online training courses and webinars are a large portion of the total courses submitted for recertification consideration. Currently in the process of implementing a QR Code system for capturing applicator recertification hours. The new process for capturing and processing applicator recertification attendance will be more efficient and result in a more expedient turnaround time for applicators to receive and view their earned recertification credits online

- + **WPS:** South Carolina has continued to enforce the revised WPS regulations during this 2023-2024 reporting time frame. We have continued to help prepare SC growers to meet the requirements of the revised WPS regulation via online methods as well as in person meetings. During this reporting time in-person and online meetings have been conducted to address inspector training needs and to address areas of concern while conducting WPS inspections. The new Ideagen inspection application programs (formerly known as MiApps) is currently being used for all WPS inspections during this reporting time. All WPS inspections are entered into this new online inspection database system. All routine WPS inspections on farms, forestry, nursery and greenhouses inspections are entered into this system from the field. All completed WPS case files are reviewed by Ms. Lognion to ensure the cases are correct and complete. SC's, WPS four-page inspection form and SC's handler and worker interview forms are used for notes and backup purposes only during this inspection year. Outreach materials which included PowerPoint presentations, handouts for family farms and resource contact lists were updated and used by the field to aid in their inspection efforts. We distributed WPS safety posters to field staff to hand out during their inspection efforts for the 2023-2024 inspection years. Training DVD videos

have been distributed to grower across our state who have limited or no access to the internet.

SC continues to be an active council member of the Migrant Health Advisory Council for South Carolina and continues to serve in an officer position on this council for the 2023-2024 year.

SC collaborated with Clemson's Rural Health Mobile Health division for this 2024 growing season to reach the agricultural seasonal and permanent workforce in regard to pesticide safety. South Carolina's WPS program continues to meet all required and projected areas outlined in the EPA guidance. South Carolina's DPR WPS inspection numbers and WPS 5700 forms were completed during this reporting time frame.

- + **Endangered Species:** SC's DPR has kept abreast of the territory maps, bulletins and label information released by EPA regarding Endangered Species impact areas in South Carolina. Links to the ES territory maps have been sent to all field staff to address in their inspection efforts in 2024. ES outreach brochures developed by Ms. Lognion are handed out upon request at meetings and tradeshow. South Carolina's DPR brochure supplies are limited due to lack of funding by EPA for this program. Funding by EPA is a necessity for this program to succeed to its full potential
- + **Water Quality:** DPR will evaluate Pesticides of Interest through its groundwater sampling program. During 2023, DPR is scheduled to collect 75 groundwater samples from wells located in rural areas, at farms, at golf courses and/or nursery/greenhouse operations.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** Waste disposal is managed by the SC Department of Agriculture
- + **Container Recycling:** End of year for 2023 was 166,293 (this was for the entire year), and mid-year was 66,685 (Jan-June 2023). So third and fourth quarter total was 99, 608. Half of that is 49,804 and a third of that is 33,202. 33,202 is probably close to what was collected.
- + **Special Programs/Initiatives:** Outreach and educational materials continue to be distributed to school district personnel and pest control personnel as ongoing outreach for SC's IPM in Schools program. SC's IPM in Schools Program is continues to be addressed during DPR inspections and outreach trainings across the state.
- + **New Issues/Concerns:** DPR is anticipating the introduction of legislation during the next session that could challenge the local ordinance ban (pre-emption) currently in place and additional legislation targeting barrier mosquito applications within 1000 feet of water. DPR is concerned with the enforceability of proposed measures for rodenticides in the PIDs, herbicides under the new strategy, and the VSPP.
- + **Fee Changes:** No fee changes are scheduled.
- + **Pesticide Registration:** 16,580 – Current Total approved products with 8/31/24 exp
  - 15648 Products renewed
  - 932 New Product Registrations
  - 880 Product Cancellations
  - 179 2024 non-renewals
  - 939 25(b) Registrations
- + **Other Significant News:** SSURO was issued against Sprinkler Magician – Mosquito Magician. The company plans to deplete stock outside of the US. DPR has received a modified label for registration that appears to be in compliance with the 25B exemptions.

SC received and rejected a request to ban the use of glyphosate on coastal communities. DPR worked with the community to draft a plan to voluntarily move away from using glyphosate on municipal property. There is a significant push from a couple of NGOs on the coast to ban glyphosate and increase transparency from schools on IPM.

The new Mi-Apps programs continue to impress. The analytics tool is currently in development with plans to utilize the tool when data is available to report for the midyear report and fiscal accountability report.

## Tennessee

- + **Budget:** Attempting to reduce the budget, the Feed, Seed, Fertilizer Sections recombining once again with Pesticides
- + **Staffing:** 1 clerical and 1 Pesticide Coordinator position. Both vacant
- + **Legislative/Rules:** No new legislation, however, we will begin the work on revising the rules as it pertains to the C & T State Plan
- + **C&T:** TDA is proposing changes regarding the tracking of CEU's. Meetings have been held with the field staff and industry. PSEP will follow.
- + **Pesticide Waste Disposal:** TDA is receiving requests for pickups in large quantities.
- + **Pesticide Registration:** Stop sale for the 25B product Stop the Bites Arkion Life Sciences for having Bifenthrin and Permethrin found in the lab sample.