

# SFIREG Environmental Quality Issues (EQI) Working Committee Report

Hotze Wijnja  
EQI Chair

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Full SFIREG, June 2–4, 2025



## WORKING COMMITTEES



SFIREG has three Working Committees.

The Pesticide Operations and Management (POM) Working Committee is focused on registration, certification, and enforcement related pesticide issues of national or regional importance. [\*\*POM Committee Members\*\*](#)

The **Environmental Quality Issues (EQI) Working Committee** is involved with pesticide issues related to water quality, threatened and endangered species, human health and the environment, risk assessments, and technical aspects of the implementation of pesticide programs. [\*\*EQI Committee Members\*\*](#)

### [\*\*EQI Resources\*\*](#)

The Endangered Species Strategy Implementation (ESI) Working Committee is involved with implementation of EPA's strategies to support ESA compliance. [\*\*ESI Committee Members\*\*](#)

The committees meet jointly.

# EQI Working Committee

- ▶ Focused on issues related to water quality, human health and the environment, risk assessments, and technical aspects of the implementation of pesticide programs.
- ▶ Current EQI members are:
  - Pam Bryer (ME) (2026)
  - Beth Carter (IN) (2027)
  - James Cooper (FL) (2025)
  - Xin Deng (CA) (2027)
  - Henry Hamilton (NC) (2027)
  - Rajinder Mann (MN) (2025)
  - Hotze Wijnja (MA) (2025) (Chair)
  - Christina Zimmerman (WA) (2026)

# Membership Updates

- James Cooper (FL) and Rajinder Mann (MN) will be ending their term.
- Christina Zimmerman (WA) requested to end her term early due to changes in her position at WSDA.
- Hotze Wijnja (MA) will be ending his second 2-year term as chair but has agreed to stay on a regular member for at least one more year.
- Rajinder Mann (MN) has agreed to be the new chair

# EQI Topics and Action Items

## **Pesticides and Water**

- Required Program Area in FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance (CAG)
- Ensure that pesticides do not adversely affect the nation's water resources
- State Lead Agencies (SLA's) to assess and report on state specific information and data

# Pesticides and Water Quality

- ▶ EQI: Improve the abilities for sharing of information on water quality activities and findings among SLAs, both regionally and nationally
  - Pesticides of concern, pesticides detections, and mitigation efforts for pesticides in water
- ▶ Formerly done through the Pesticides of Interest and Tracking System (POINTS) (2007-2021)
  - Currently POINTS is maintained at WSU to allow access to historic data (see EQI resource document)
- ▶ Current Activities:
  - Facilitate improvement of pesticides and water program aspects, such as data sharing, analysis, and support regulatory program.

# Pesticides and Water:

## Current Activities

- ▶ Interacted with EPA regarding updates to *Pesticides and Water* reporting criteria in Cooperative Agreement Guidance
  - Goal was to establish more practical and meaningful requirements for SLAs
  - Provide more useful information to EPA
- ▶ Facilitate information and data sharing among SLAs by providing a general template (supplement to annual report)
  - Draft template has been developed
  - Updated version will be shared with SLAs & EPA
  - Considerations for sharing of information compiled through templates (for example, as a resource on AAPCO website)

# Backpack Mist Blower Use in Residential Mosquito Control

- ▶ Drift to nontarget areas has become a greater concern with growth of mist blower use; increased number of complaints for SLAs
- ▶ Issue Paper submitted to EPA (2023)
- ▶ Suggested label language to address issue:
  1. “Do not apply this product in a way that will contact any person or pet either directly or through drift.”
  2. “Keep adults, children, and pets away from treated surfaces until the targeted areas and their surroundings are completely dry.”
  3. “Do not apply this product in a manner that allows spray to drift to adjacent off-target areas.”
- ▶ EPA response (2024):
  - Recommendations include that manufacturers consider voluntarily adding or amending label use directions to include mister-specific application directions
  - States could also provide guidance on best practices

# Mosquito Adulticide Mist Blower Use in Residential Settings



## Backpack Mist Blowers:

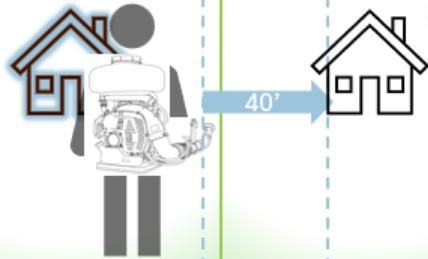
- 220 MPH
- 40 ft intended reach area
- Rate linked to squeeze throttle, flow value, droplet size



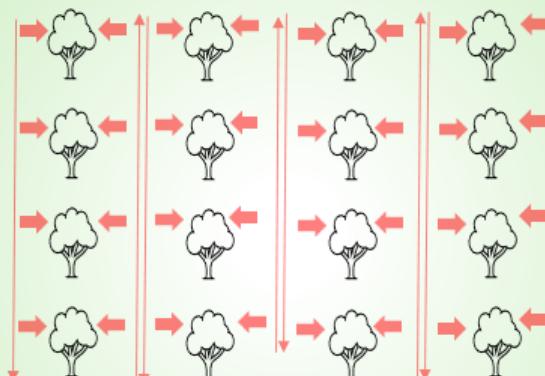
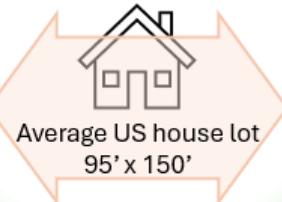
## Orchard Air Blast Sprayers:

- 84 MPH
- Well established calibration procedures
- No outward spraying at edge of field allowed

This family hired an applicator for a perimeter tick and mosquito spray



Now this family has concerns



Issue Paper: Mosquito Adulticide Mist Blower Use in Residential Settings, September 2023.

# Mosquito Mist Blower Issue: Current Activities

- ▶ Seeking input from Associations and Industry on label language that can address the issue
  - Reached out to the team that developed the Purdue University guide for Backpack Mist Blower in Mosquito Control (meeting documents)
  - Received feedback for refinement the proposed label language



# Mosquito Mist Blower Issue: Current Activities

- ▶ Attended the ASCPRO Public Health Committee meeting:
- ▶ Action items:
  - Reach out to RISE to get their support
  - Consider options to improve outreach, training and education; reach out to AAPSE
  - EQI to continue to attend ASCPRO Public Health Committee meetings

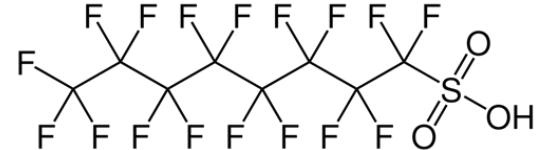
# Mosquito Mist Blower Issue: Current Activities

- ▶ Pre-SFIREG questions:
  - Did SLAs receive complaints regarding drift from these applications in the last two years, and, if so, what the resolution was of the complaint?
    - EQI will consider feedback
- ▶ EQI received a letter from the *Indiana Outdoor Management Alliance Group*
  - Generally, in support of EQI's efforts to improve language for compliance and enforcement.
  - Problematic item is to not allow any drift to non-target areas
  - It was suggested to consider the potential to cause harm from drifted product as a criterion.
  - The group offered their expertise as a resource with the consideration of options to address the issue.

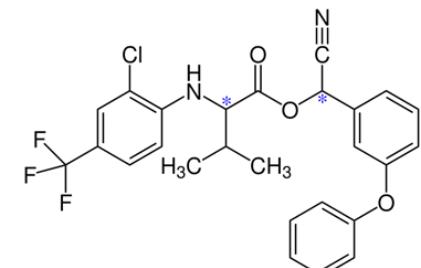
# Mosquito Mist Blower Issue: Current Activities

- ▶ Considering a path forward, continue interaction with stakeholders
- ▶ Review EPA risk assessments to further inform the aspect of ‘harm’ associated with mistblower applications
- ▶ Consideration of options to facilitate the access to existing best management practices and guides.

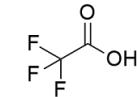
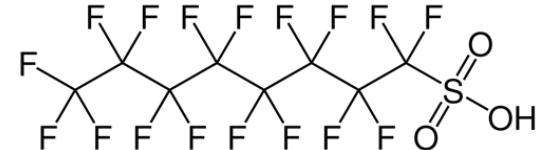
# PFAS and Pesticides



- ▶ EQI continues to follow developments related to PFAS and Pesticides, including regulatory aspects, testing of pesticide products and containers, and method development for different types of product formulations
- ▶ Adjuvants
- ▶ Pesticide Degradates (such as TFA)
- ▶ Regulatory developments (federal and state)

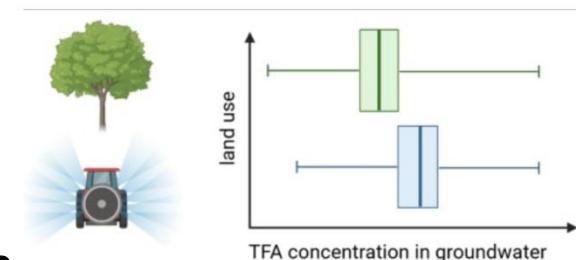


# PFAS and Pesticides



trifluoroacetic acid

- ▶ Trifluoroacetate (TFA) (smallest PFAS)
- ▶ Recent publications on (TFA) and pesticides
  - Terminal degradate of various PFAS compounds, including certain pesticides
- ▶ Research has shown increasing levels of this compound in surface and groundwater and has brought up concerns. (see JWC meeting document)



- ▶ Resulted in the cancellation of certain pesticides in the EU.

# Pesticide-Treated Seeds

- ▶ Issue Paper (2022) and EPA Response (2023)
- ▶ EQI continues to follow the developments related to pesticide treated seeds, including:
  - Efforts related to labeling, use, tracking, storage, planting, and disposal of treated seed.
  - State legislative actions
  - Following research on dust generation during treated seed planting (VT)

# Other Topics of Interest

- ▶ **Developments of Models and Tools**
  - EPA's Pesticide and Water Calculator: valuable tool for SLA's to support water quality program.
  - EQI follows new developments of this modeling tool
- ▶ **Aquatic Life Protective Values Developed for Pesticides under FIFRA and the Clean Water Act (CWA):**
  - EPA released the harmonized approach and proposed analysis for public comment.
  - No updates, but EQI continues to follow the developments.

# Other Topics of Interest

- ▶ Honeybee colony losses:
  - EQI is following updates on the research and testing.
  - The *Project Apis m* webpage ‘Colony Loss Information — Project Apis m. is an example of a central hub for information.
- ▶ New studies of interest:

 MAY 14, 2025

 The GIST

**Detergent additives found to generate glyphosate in treated wastewater**

by Christfried Dornis, Universitaet Tübingen

# JWC meeting summary

## Outline and Summary of April 7-8, 2025 Joint Working Committee Sessions:

Please refer to the meeting materials for papers, presentations and minutes from the Fall JWC meeting on the AAPCO website <https://aapco.org/2015/07/29/working-committees/> compiled by Amy Sullivan, AAPCO Executive Secretary. An outline of the topics/presentations covered in the joint session is provided below:

### POM/EQI/ESI Joint Meeting:

- AAPCO President Update (Gretchen Paluch, IA/Kelly Friend, FL, AAPCO)
- SFIREG Chair Update (Steve Dwinell, VT, SFIREG Chair)
- Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Update (Kaitlin Picone, US EPA)
- EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Update (Kelly Engle, US EPA)
- **Welcome and Remarks from NCDACS (Chrissy Waggett, Assistant Commissioner)**
- **Pesticides and the Monarch Butterfly Proposed Decision (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Kimberly Nesci, USDA, Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)**
  - Kimberly Nesci, USDA OPMP presented on their comments/concerns regarding USFWS monarch butterfly proposed rule (comments available on the website)

# EQI Resources

- ▶ Accessing POINTS
  - Access historic data captured in the database
- ▶ Aquatic Life Benchmarks:
  - Use for State-Lead Agencies



## POINTS (Pesticides of Interest Tracking System)

### Accessing POINTS (Pesticides of Interest Tracking System)

May 2024, Washington State University confirmed that they will continue to host historical data in

## EPA's Aquatic Life Benchmarks: Use for State-Lead Agencies

- **What are aquatic life benchmarks for registered pesticides?**
  - Values set by EPA's Office of Pesticide Program (OPP)
  - Based on scientific studies to estimate the concentrations below which pesticides are not expected to represent a risk of concern for aquatic life
  - Can be used to identify and prioritize sites or pesticides that may require further investigation
  - Find more information here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/aquatic-life-benchmarks-and-ecological-risk>
- **How can State-Lead Agencies use the benchmarks?**
  - To compare environmental data to the benchmarks, start by searching the table for the pesticide of concern. Associated degradates will also appear.

Below is an example for the active ingredient fipronil.

# Thank You

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