

Report to SFIREG (June 2025): Activities of the Environmental Quality Issues (EQI) Working Committee.

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EQI Committee Members

The EQI Working Committee is 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 committee members and term-ending years 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), and 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

Summary of EQI Activities:

EQI met virtually several times to discuss the work on various topics related to the JWC and Full SFIREG meetings. The Spring Joint Working Committee (JWC) meeting was held on April 7-8, 2025, at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Raleigh, NC. Meeting materials are available on the AAPCO website [Working Committees – Association of American Pesticide Control Officials](#).

The POM, ESI and EQI committees had joint sessions with topics of broad interest and a breakout session to discuss specific issues in detail within each committee. In addition, there was an opportunity to tour several of NCDACS lab facilities. The EQI action items and current status are described below, followed by a summary of the joint session of the meeting.

EQI Topics and Action Items and status update:

Pesticides and Water:

EQI continues to consider options to assist with how pesticides and water aspects can be improved, such as streamlining water quality data reporting and data sharing.

- EQI awaits the new Cooperative Agreement Guidance which is expected to have updated requirements for pesticides and water reporting, and new guidance for identifying Pesticides of Interest (POIs).
- Relative to Pesticides and Water information sharing among states, EQI is developing a general template that could be used by state program on a voluntary basis and supplement the End-of-Year reporting to EPA.

Updates and status:

- EQI is looking out for the new Cooperative Agreement Guidance to be released and learn of updates this process that may be shared during the Full SFIREG meeting in June.
- EPA indicated that information on POI/POCs from annual reporting can be helpful with assessing trends in states and regions.
- A draft template has been developed and was shared with the committee members for review and feedback. The template is designed to compile and share information related to pesticides of interest/concern and annual water sampling efforts. An updated version is being generated and may be made available for review by SLAs and EPA.
- Options for sharing of information compiled through the Pesticides and Water template were considered, include the possibility of making it available as a resource on the AAPCO website.

Backpack Mist Blower Use in Mosquito Control:

As a follow up to the issue paper and EPA's response, EQI continues to consider options to improve the insecticide product labeling related to the uses of mist blowers in residential settings. EQI plans to reach out to industry and professional organizations to get feedback on proposed label language. During the meeting, it was suggested that EQI interacts with the ASCPRO Public Health Committee and seek collaboration on this effort. EQI is also looking at sources of best practices and other educational materials related to this application technology.

Action Items and Updates:

- Developed a ‘*Summary Sheet on Needed Label Changes for Products Used in Backpack Mist Blowers*’ that will be used with outreach to stakeholder (posted with meeting documents)
- Reached out to the team that developed the Purdue University guide for [Backpack Mist Blower in Mosquito Control](#) regarding the proposed label statements. Feedback received from team members included suggestions for refinement of certain elements of the proposed label language; this is incorporated in the latest version of the summary sheet (see above).
- Pre-SFIREG questions: EQI is looking forward to receiving feedback from SLA’s on the question whether SLAs received any complaints regarding drift from these applications in the last two years, and, if so, what the resolution was of the complaint?
- Attended the ASCPRO Public Health Committee meeting on April 17, 2025:
 - Shared the summary sheet with the committee members and discussed the approach to address the issue related to use of mist blowers for these types of applications. Action items from the meeting:
 - ASCPRO Public Health Committee to reach out to RISE to get their support in this effort.
 - Recognize that the process for label changes and updates will take quite some time (years) and should be considered a longer-term goal.
 - In the meantime, efforts could include improving outreach, education and training. It was pointed out that the applicators that do these applications typically have limited training. Therefore, it could be considered low-hanging fruit to address this and improve the outcome of these type of pesticide applications.
 - It was suggested that the Public Health Committee could reach out to AAPSE regarding assistance with training and outreach.
 - EQI will be invited to join upcoming meetings of the Public Health Committee to continue this collaboration.
- EQI received a letter from the *Indiana Outdoor Management Alliance Group*
 - The group shared their thoughts on regulatory aspects related to the use of mistblowers with pesticide applications. The group is generally in support of EQI’s efforts to improve language for compliance and enforcement. However, one of the proposed label language items to not allow any drift to non-target areas was viewed as problematic for the industry. It was suggested to consider the potential to cause harm to drifted product as a criterion. The

group offered their expertise as a resource with the consideration of options to address the issue.

- EQI discussed the path forward with this issue paper and follow up. Related to the aspect of harm associated with mistblower applications, it would be useful to review EPA risk assessments. Consideration of options to facilitate the access to existing best management practices and guides is also viewed as something that can be helpful to address the issues with these types of applications.
- In the context of this topic, EQI was made aware of the *Xerces Society* webinar: The Truth About Mosquito Sprays: Investigating their Impact on Pollinators <https://youtu.be/jd0ZAUhSzg0>. This webinar reported results from a monitoring study of insecticide residues associated with barrier spraying in residential areas. EQI has taken note of these results but notes that this is not research that has been peer-reviewed.

PFAS and Pesticides:

- Attention to Trifluoroacetate (TFA):

EQI has noted recent publications regarding the compound Trifluoroacetate (TFA). As a 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. EQI has taken note that the attention to TFA residues found in water resources has resulted in the cancellation of certain pesticides in the EU. EQI continues to follow the developments related to TFA, and PFAS and pesticides in general.

Meeting Discussion and Updates:

- Discussion of the TFA information at the meeting included the participation of pesticide registrant representatives who expressed interest in this topic, particularly related to the pesticides highlighted in the studies (see also meeting document).
- EQI continues to follow the scientific developments in this area and plans to have it on the agenda in the near future for discussion with EPA
- Item of interest: [*Message from the bottle: The Rapid Rise of TFA Contamination Across the EU*](#); a report on an investigation into trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)

contamination in wine carried out across ten European wine-producing EU countries.

- EQI continues to follow the regulatory developments in several states related to PFAS and pesticides.

Treated Seeds:

EQI is following updates on state research efforts and other state-related efforts to address concerns related to use of treated seeds. Updates included work by Univ. of Vermont Extension that is conducting a 2-year field study to assess dust off exposure with planting of treated seeds. EQI is following developments with state efforts to regulate treated seeds (including VT, NY and MN), and state responses to legal challenges from NGOs (CA and MN)

Updates:

- VT research update shared by Pam: Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments Impacts on Crop, Soil, and Water – 2025 Preliminary Report (attached with Teams meeting invite)
- Item of interest: Example of seed treatment product label (Acceleron Prime Fungicide; EPA Reg. No. 264-1239) that requires product name and EPA Reg. No. on the seed bag label:

SEED BAG LABEL REQUIREMENTS	
Federal Seed Act requires that containers containing treated seeds shall be labeled with the following information.	
• This seed has been treated with:	
○ Acceleron Prime Fungicide Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 264-1239) which contains 22.41% Imidacloprid, 4.31% Metalaxyl, 2.16% Prothioconazole, and 2.16% Fluoxastrobin.	
• DO NOT use for feed, food or oil purposes.	
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires the following statements on containers containing seed treated with:	
– Acceleron Prime Fungicide Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 264-1239):	

EPA's Pesticide Water Calculator: EQI has taken note of recent developments and updates of this model that can be a useful tool for state lead agencies to support their pesticides and water programs. Recent updates offer user friendly approaches but also come with certain limitations in the flexibility of the model. EQI plans to reach out to the EPA team and may invite them to a future meeting to further discuss these aspects.

No Updates

Aquatic Life Protective Values Developed for Pesticides under FIFRA and the Clean Water Act (CWA): EQI recognizes the values of Aquatic Life Benchmarks for state program and has developed guidance for the use of these benchmarks. EPA recently released the harmonized approach and proposed analysis for public comment. EQI noted that only few comments were submitted, and it appears that stakeholders do not have significant issues with EPA's approach. EQI continues to follow the developments.

No Updates

Other topics of interest:

Honey colony losses:

EQI looked into the latest information on efforts to assess and explain unusually high loss of honeybee colonies since last summer/fall. It was noted that stakeholders are waiting for the results of various tests that are currently ongoing. Test results may provide insight into what possible reasons for the observed losses.

Updates:

- 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 press releases, webinars, research updates, and key resources related to 2025 colony loss data as it becomes available.

Glyphosate Residues in Water:

EQI was made aware of the following study: (shared by Craig Romary, NE):

[Detergent additives found to generate glyphosate in treated wastewater](#)

The study reports data that indicate that glyphosate can be formed from detergents in certain situations such as in wastewater. In the EU, this has been linked to observations of glyphosate in surface waters. It will be interesting to find out if this is the case in the US.

EQI Resources:

Available on AAPCO webpage: [EQI Resource Materials – Association of American Pesticide Control Officials](#)

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)

- **Glufosinate-P Registration** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs and Janet Hou, BASF and Dillon Gabbert, CLA and Kaitlin Picone, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP))
 - Kaitlin Picone, EPA provided information about the registration
 - Janet Hou, BASF, provided information on the training and outreach requirement outlined as condition in Notice of Pesticide Registration (presentation available on the website)

- **Digital Labeling** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Michelle Arling, EPA/OPP/ Immediate Office (IO), Dan Schoeff, EPA/OPP/IO)
 - Michelle Arling, EPA provided an update of activities related to digital labeling and overview of the new pesticide Metamitron's structured Label (presentation available on the website)

- **Web Distributed Labeling** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Michelle Arling, EPA/OPP/ IO)
 - Michelle Arling, EPA provided an overview of web distributed labeling and included the differences between web- distributed and digital labeling

- **Rodenticides** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Katie Swift, Rodenticide Task Force Chair)
 - Katie Swift, Rodenticide Task Force gave an update on the activities of the Task Force (presentation available on the website)

- **Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) 5 – Bilingual labeling Update** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Dillon Gabbert, Director, State Regulatory Affairs CropLife America (CLA) and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE))
 - Dillion Gabbert, CLA gave an update on PRIA Coalition Bilingual labeling Workgroup activities (presentation available on the website)
- **Agricultural Retailer Outreach Program** (Hotze Wijnja, MA, Amy Brown, FL, Kevin Kern, MI Committee Chairs, and Dillon Gabbert, CLA, Industry Reps, TBD)
 - Dillion Gabbert, CLA presented information on the outreach program (presentation available on the website)