

Region 7 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Minutes
April 29-30, 2025
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft TEAMS

On April 29-30, 2025, the Region 7 Pre-SFIREG Meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Those in attendance over the two-day meeting included the following:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS): Gretchen Paluch, Mark Smith, and Laura Castro.

Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA): Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Josh Gillespie, Shawn Plunkett, Cloey Burdick, Brandi Crubel, and Marty Wellington.

Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA): Kory Hubbard, Taylor Dennigmann, Emily Groner, and Megan Troesser.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA): Libby Walsh, Herbert Bates, Holly Hildebran, Craig Romary, and Michael Murren.

Representatives from Region 7 Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEPs):

Iowa—Elizabeth Danielson, and Evan Alderman.

Kansas—Frannie Miller.

Missouri—Samuel Polly.

Nebraska—Joshua Villazana, Gregory Puckett, and Frank Bright.

EPA Representatives: DeAndre Singletary, Wilfredo Rosado-Chaparro, Logan Smith, Shawn Hackett, Michael Daniels, Sharon Dobesh-Beckman, Jordan Galliher, Alexander Gareis, Candace Bednar, Mark Leshner, Kash Kruep, and Brenton Jennings.

Updates from Region 7 States:

Region 7 States reported changes in personnel roles and/or vacancies including the following:

- Iowa was fully staffed;
- Kansas reported three vacancies;
- Missouri reported one vacancy; and
- Nebraska was fully staffed.

It was reported that Region 7 States are preparing for the upcoming complaint season, and that many of the Region 7 States have already been receiving complaints.

Iowa hosted the Region 7 Inspector Workshop from March 17, 2025, to March 20, 2025. It was reported that there was a tort liability pesticide bill introduced during the legislative session; however, it did not move forward. With respect to certification and training, Iowa is wrapping up the certification season. It was also noted that Iowa has seen an increase in private applicators moving to their online system. Iowa is moving forward with their administrative packet with a January 1, 2026, effective date.

Kansas continues to receive inquiries related to pesticide applications via unmanned aircraft systems / unmanned aerial vehicles. To address this, Kansas has updated its policy related to commercial applications of pesticide products via unmanned aircraft systems, and Kansas has implemented a policy for applications of pesticide products via unmanned aircraft systems by government agencies. Kansas recently completed an in-person staff meeting and team members have been working to complete the annual training requirements so federal credentials can be renewed.

Missouri reported that its licensing and registration period is starting to slow down for the season. It was noted that Missouri's certification and training implementation date was January 1, 2025.

Nebraska reported that their certification season is completed. It was noted that Nebraska operates on the Federal Fiscal Year so their Mid-Year Report Meeting with EPA will be occurring soon.

Updates from Region 7 PSEPs:

The Iowa PSEPs reported being fully staffed. The spring training season has wrapped up and they are working on developing fall programs along with study manual updates. Iowa offers multiple methods of training including live streaming, in-office training, and a self-paced asynchronous training option for certain categories.

The Kansas PSEP reported updates to a variety of study manuals including the general manual, the stored products manual, public health manual, and the aerial manual. Additionally, online private applicator training has been developed. The Kansas PSEP is also working to develop fall training programs.

The Missouri PSEP reported on its prior updates to study manuals and highlighted its success with the Canvas program which allows online private applicator training to be completed. Missouri is engaged in a continual improvement process and is working to update online courses and address new categories of certification such as the aerial category.

Nebraska PSEPs reported being fully staffed after Joshua Villazana joined the team in March. Nebraska PSEPs reported working on updating training materials, including several training videos. It was also noted that they are working on respirator fit test training, with the goal of a train-the-trainer outcome.

Updates from U.S. EPA Region 7:

It was noted that EPA is operating pursuant to a Continuing Resolution until the end of the fiscal year. Information regarding state allocations may be anticipated in the next few weeks. There was also discussion on WPS inspections and PEI Case Review.

During the meeting there were discussions on grant funding and the cancellations of grant awards. It was noted that AAPCO is closely monitoring funding concerns and will continue to engage in discussions regarding grant funding.

Feed-through Pesticides:

Region 7 States reported a variety of experiences with feed-through pesticides, which have been addressed in both marketplace and PEI inspections. It was noted that EPA has a working group to address this matter, and had been working on a guidance document to provide clarity. It was further noted that the decision tree was created to simplify the EPA's draft guidance document. Region 7 States agreed that the decision tree would be a helpful guidance document. No specific label examples were provided during the discussion.

EPA Label Amendment Cover/Acceptance Letters:

Region 7 States generally reported that EPA Label Amendment Cover/Acceptance Letters are not required as part of the individual states' registration processes. It was noted that States generally look to the market label when engaged in enforcement activities. Additional clarity is needed from EPA on what is expected when terms and conditions are included in such letters.

General Use Pesticides that are Reclassified to RUP:

It was noted that a press release from EPA would be helpful in notifying States when a product is reclassified to a restricted use pesticide.

Mosquito Control Back-pack Mist Blowers:

Region 7 States reported a variety of experiences with mosquito control back-pack mist blowers. Nebraska reported that it regularly receives complaints, however licensure requirements are limited; Missouri reported that it has received a few complaints; Iowa reported that it receives calls relating to such applications; and Kansas reported that it has not received such complaints in the past few years. It was noted that licensure requirements differ across states and that label language can be vague when looking at enforcement concerns.

ESA Workplan and Strategy Implementation:

Region 7 States did not report experiencing problems with the mitigation point scale and value differences between NMFS and USFWS. It was noted that CSI has a survey seeking input about the need and content for a toolbox / clearinghouse for educational resources. With respect to prioritizing needs, it was noted that communication with states on labels with approved ESA language is needed and an ESA listserv would be helpful. It was also noted that access to historical bulletins is needed for enforcement.

Bulletins Live Two (BLT):

It was noted that some over-the-top dicamba PULAs are still showing up in searches. It was also noted that if you complete the data download from the EPA Advance Resources page, there may be adjacent counties that show up in your link. The Vulnerable Species PULA refinement process was also discussed. It was noted that the revised Core Map layers may be an indicator for upcoming actions. Links to the EPA Advance Resources and Core Map Layer pages are included below under the heading “Resources / Links Identified During the Meeting.”

Implementation of the Final Biological Opinion on Carbaryl:

No comments were provided by Region 7 States.

Pesticide Registration Decisions:

Region 7 States reported interest in registration decisions relating to dicamba, atrazine, 2,4-D, and glyphosate, metolachlor, S-metolachlor, metribuzin, neonicotinoids, and organophosphates.

New and Ongoing Issues:

There was a discussion on how Region 7 States address situations where unlicensed individuals or businesses are soliciting / determining if pest control services are needed. It was also noted that there are open nominations for the SFIREG joint working committees, including the POM and EQI committees.

Region 7 Specific Presentations:**Closed Regulatory Session:**

Select representatives from Region 7 States and Region 7 EPA participated in a closed regulatory session.

Certification and Training presentation by Shawn Hackett, EPA Region 7

The presentation from Mr. Hackett discussed modification to State Certification Plans, including examples of substantial modifications, notable modifications, and incidental changes.

Bilingual Labeling / WPS Update presentations by Jordan Galliher, EPA Region 7

Ms. Galliher provided updates on bilingual labeling and WPS. In particular it was noted that EPA Region 7 representatives have joined one of the four bilingual labeling workgroups (Accessibility). Ms. Galliher discussed PRIA 5 Requirements and provided further clarity on AEZ requirements and pesticide applications within enclosed areas. Links to resources are included below under the heading “Resources / Links Identified During the Meeting.”

Endangered Species Act, Open Forum / Group Discussion by Sharon Doebesh, EPA Region 7

Ms. Doebesh noted that the Insecticide Strategy is available for review. She also facilitated a discussion on the ESA outreach activities in Region 7 States. It was noted that discussion between EPA and the states is important along with engagement with PSEPs.

Subsequent Discussion / Questions:

After conclusion of the Region 7 Pre-SFRIEG Meeting, it was noted that it could be helpful to receive an update on pesticide product labels and unmanned aircraft systems / drone technology. An interest was expressed in having pesticide product labels begin to incorporate language for unmanned aircraft systems / drone applications.

The additional Pre-SFIREG question of “which states have state authority in rule or statute requiring record keeping by private applicators” was discussed. Nebraska has some recordkeeping requirements within their regulations while Iowa, Kansas and Missouri do not contain such recordkeeping provisions in their respective statutes or regulations.

Resources / Links Identified During the Meeting:

Regulations.gov - Bilingual labeling proposed tracking plan:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0438-0002>

Code of Federal Regulations - Enclosed space entry restrictions:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-170/subpart-E/section-170.405>

Link to EPA’s Website – Process EPA Uses to Develop Core Maps for Pesticide Use Limitation Areas:
<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/process-epa-uses-develop-core-maps-pesticide-use-limitation-areas>

[Core Map Layer-Public - Overview](#)