

AAPCO's 79th Annual Spring Meeting and Conference
March 1-4, 2026
Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St., Alexandria, VA

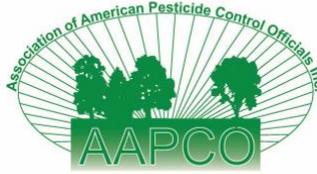
Sunday, March 1

- 2-5 pm AAPCO Board of Directors Meeting – All Pesticide State Lead Agency staff are encouraged to attend.
Washington/Jefferson room 2nd floor.
- 5:30 pm Welcome Reception and Poster Session – Come join us for a reception and a poster session where participants will share innovations, challenges and opportunities related to pesticides. Grand Ballroom Foyer and Potomac Room.

Monday, March 2

Morning Moderator: Kelly Friend, AAPCO President

- 8:15 am Welcome and Roll Call – Kelly Friend, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Amy Sullivan, AAPCO Executive Secretary
- 8:45 am AAPCO's Year in Review – Kelly Friend, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- 9:15 am Keynote Speaker - Kyle Kunkler, US EPA, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am US EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs – Edward Messina, Director
- 10:30 am US EPA, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance – Loren Denton, CITD Director
- 11:00 am USDA, Office of Pest Management Policy – Julie Van Alstine, Acting Director
- 11:30 am Health Canada, Pesticide Compliance Program Update – David Quesnel, Health Canada Pesticide Compliance Program



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12:00 pm Lunch on your own

Concurrent Laboratory Directors Meeting begins, Potomac Room (open to all attendees)

Afternoon Moderator: Brian Verhougstraete, AAPCO President-Elect

1:15 pm Update from the Tribal Pesticide Program Council – Africa Dorame-Avalos, InterTribal Council of Arizona; Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts and Tortugas Pueblo

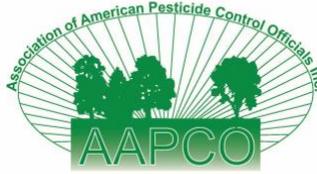
1:45 pm Update from National Association of State Departments of Agriculture – Patrick Wade, Director of Public Policy

2:15 pm Pesticide Registration Improvement Act and the PRIA Coalition – Laurie-Ann Flanagan, PRIA 6 Coalition Chairperson and President of D.C. Legislative and Regulatory Services

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Pesticide Registration Panel Discussion – Facilitator: Steve Dwinell, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. Panel: Amy Brown, FL; Janet Hou, BASF; Charles (Billy) Smith, OPP Registration Division; Anne Overstreet, OPP Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division; Shannon Borges, OPP Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division.

The process of registration of pesticides is the fundamental mechanism for effective pesticide regulation. Registration decisions regarding active ingredients, safety precautions, directions for use, environmental protections, and cautionary language affect every aspect of state pesticide regulatory programs. EPA is implementing process improvements and new approaches to labeling, such as digital labeling and structured labeling. State lead agencies are co-regulatory partners with EPA and understanding current and future registration process and activity will benefit state regulatory programs. This panel will provide information on current registration activities, how process improvements may affect



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registration processes, and how SLAs, registrants, and EPA can work together to more effectively implement registration decisions.

5:00 pm Adjourn

Tuesday, March 3

Morning Moderator: Patrick Farquhar, AAPCO Director

8:00 am ESA Panel Discussion: Brian Anderson, EPA OPP – General pesticide program update on the status of ESA work and upcoming developments; Kevin Kern, SFIREG Endangered Species Implementation Chair – Update on the activities of the ESI working committee and areas of focus; Kim Brown & Dillon Gabbert, ESA National Forum Steering Committee – Presentation of accomplishments from the ESA National Forum and next planned steps; Cary Giguere, NASDA Foundation – Update on NASDA Foundation and USDA Office of Pest Management Program plans to develop an ESA train-the-trainer program for state inspectors and investigators; Sophie Gaillardon, North American Regulatory Director for Nutrien Ag Solutions – Changes and challenges as a result of ESA-related label language on pesticide labels.

Representatives of EPA, NASDA Foundation, AAPCO SFIREG and Industry will provide updates and current activities that their groups have been working on regarding ESA and pesticides. Discussion will include updates from EPA and the SFIREG Endangered Species Strategy Implementation (ESI) working committee on recent areas of focus, summary of events from the ESA National Forum, details about NASDA Foundation ESA training plans for pesticide inspectors and investigators, and an industry perspective on steps and challenges encountered when complying with new ESA label requirements.

9:15 am National Agricultural Law Center – Harrison M. Pittman, Director



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Created by Congress in 1987, the NALC is the only agricultural and food law research and information facility that is independent, national in scope, and directly connected to the national agricultural information network.

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Industry Relations Forum: Working Together in 2026 and Beyond
Growing Matters – Caydee Savinelli, Syngenta, Head US Crop Protection Stewardship;
American Seed Trade Association – Jordan Gregory, Director State Government Affairs;
Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials – John Pitcock, KY President;
National Pest Management Association – Dr. Michael Bentley, Vice President of Training and Technical Services, and
Bonnie Rabe, Rollins, Director of Government Relations.
Learn about some of the associations and how they are navigating past and present challenges.

12:00 noon Lunch on your own

Afternoon Moderator: Bob Blankenburg, AAPCO Director

1:30 pm Pesticide Educational Resource Collaborative (PERC) Update – Suzanne Forsyth, Director, UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education
This session will highlight projects PERC is finalizing during this fourth and final year, and how will PERC products be accessed into the future.

2:00 pm Difficult Conversations – Kaci Buhl, Professor of Practice, Oregon State University



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Drawing upon her experience with the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), Kaci Buhl will share some of the lessons learned and training topics employed at the Center when talking with the public about pesticides and related topics. She will differentiate between "safety" and "risk," emphasize the importance of listening before responding, and describe "outrage factors" that influence risk perception and risky behaviors. In closing, a proposed checklist will be provided, which can be used for training/discussion with your teams.

3:00 pm AAPCO Business Meeting – All Pesticide State Lead agency representatives should attend.

5:00 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm President's Reception, Grand Ballroom Foyer

Wednesday, March 4

Moderator: Sarah Caffery, AAPCO Director

8:00 am Overview of the UAPASTF: Industry Data Supporting UAV Labeling – Dr. Travis Bui, Corteva Agriscience
The Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application System Task Force (UAPASTF) was established in response to recommendations from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Pesticides' 2021 report on the use of Unmanned Aerial Spray Systems (UASS) in agriculture. In addition to generating data to evaluate off-site movement, the UAPASTF has been actively addressing non-dietary exposures from UAV applications and in the development of best practices related to safe use of pesticides in UAV applications. This presentation will summarize the on-going work of the UAPASTF as it relates to the overall regulatory process, and its use in the development of UAV-specific labeling.



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- 9:00 am Future FAA Transitions - UAS Part 137 to Part 108 Agriculture - Joel M. Jones, Orange Coast College and Drone Crop Services
This session will examine the FAA's Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) aka Part 108 and its implications for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in aerial application. We will explore how the proposed framework may shape operations for UAS applicators and discuss potential impacts on pesticide regulatory programs.
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am Digital Technologies to Streamline Pesticide Registration Processes and Field Applications - Leah Riter, Bayer CropScience
This session will explore digital labels and AI through the full life of a product.
- 11:30 am Closing Remarks - Brian Verghougstrate, AAPCO President - Elect
- 12:00 pm Adjourn