

# **USDA OPMP Update**

**AAPCO's 79th Annual Spring Meeting and Conference  
March 1-4, 2026**

**Julie Van Alstine, Acting Director**

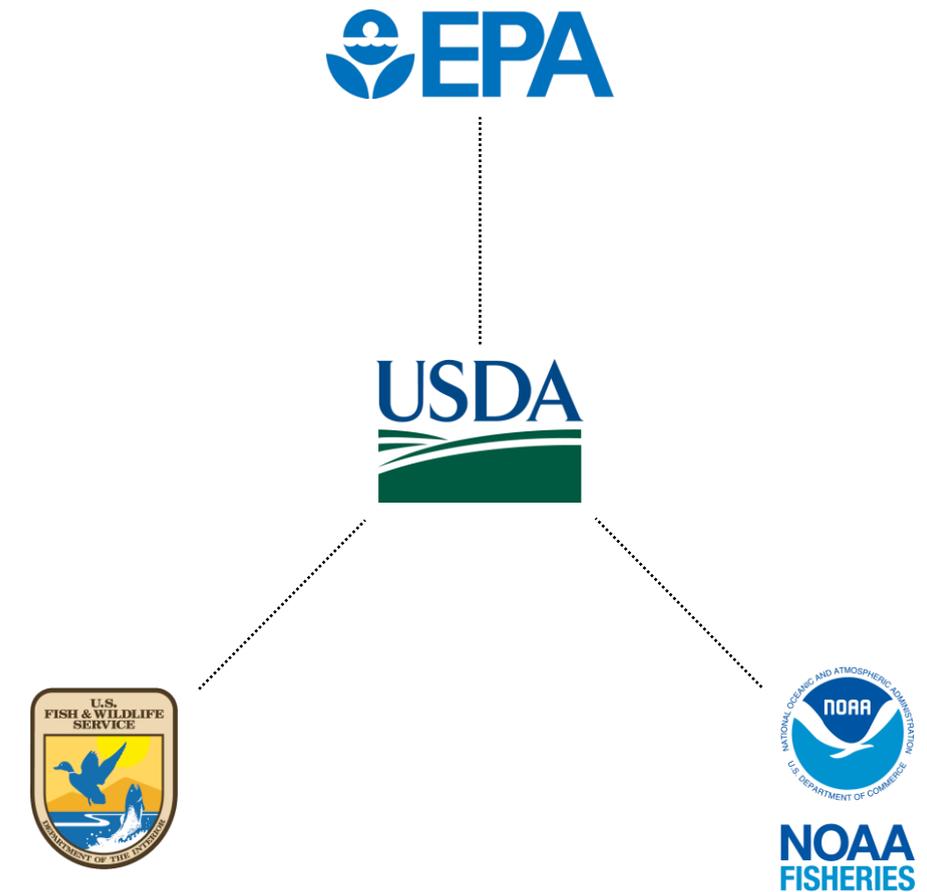
## USDA OPMP's Role in Pesticide Policy

- Located within USDA's Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)
- OPMP was established in 1998 in response to concerns about Food Quality Protection Act of 1996
- OPMP is responsible for:
  - Coordinating USDA policy on pest management, pesticides, and agricultural biotechnology
  - Consulting with stakeholders on pest management-related actions taken by EPA and other agencies
  - Interagency coordination with EPA, FDA, and other federal and state regulatory agencies
- Our stakeholders include (but are not limited to):
  - Growers (especially specialty and minor crops)
  - Pesticide registrants, retailers, and applicators
  - Cooperative extension agents
  - Non-profit and advocacy organizations
  - International, federal, and state agencies
  - Federal legislators



# USDA's Role in ESA Consultations for FIFRA Actions

- Member of the FIFRA-ESA Interagency Working Group (IWG) created under the 2018 Farm Bill.
- USDA provides the grower perspective so that EPA and the Services understand:
  - How pesticides are typically used (e.g., rates, timing, locations, application methods, target pests), and
  - The implications of proposed mitigations (e.g., feasibility, alternatives, potential unintended consequences).
- Mitigations must be practical for growers so they can be effectively implemented for the protection of listed species.



## OPMP Staff

- Julie Van Alstine, Regulatory Risk Assessor (Human Health) & Acting Director
- Claire Paisley-Jones, Biologist/Usage Data Analyst
- Jennifer Rowland, Agricultural Biotechnology Advisor
- Julius Fajardo, Plant Pathologist
- Clayton Myers, Entomologist
- Michelle Ranville, Agricultural Economist
- Lori Quade, Administrative Officer
- VACANT, Regulatory Risk Assessor (Eco/ESA)
- VACANT, Agronomist/Weed Scientist
- VACANT, Director



## Past and Current Work



- Endangered Species
  - Strategies – Insecticide Strategy (finalized) and Fungicide Strategy (underway – draft expected end of April)
  - Consultations - Final: Malathion, Methomyl, Carbaryl, other OPs (NMFS only); Ongoing: Atrazine, Simazine, Glyphosate
  - Cooperative Agreements: Western IPM Centers – ESA training workshops; NASDA – ESA training for state enforcement officers
- Participation in Interagency Drug and Pesticide Resistance Working Group (IDPREW) – focus on antifungal/antibacterial pesticides
- Seed treatment characterization, occupational safety
- Qualified Conservation Program / Qualified External Party outreach
  - Coordinating with NRCS to identify a Technical Service Provider category that could become QEP
- Continuous ag biotech engagement with interagency partners and stakeholders

## Past and Current Work (Cont.)

- Support for new active ingredient registration, incorporation of ESA strategies
- Registration Review: OPs, Rodenticides, Multi-site fungicides
- Stakeholder meetings and updates
- Coordination with EPA's new minor use team
- Briefings/memos: import/trade, usage and benefits, pesticide policy
- Engagement through conferences and crop tours
- Issues du jour - all things pest management



## OPMP Goals and Priorities

- Grower voices at the table, direct grower interaction, specialty crop considerations
- Keeping stakeholders up to date in constantly changing landscape
- SLAs and all relevant stakeholders included in early policy formulation and implementation strategies
- Reasonable risk characterization, proportionate mitigation, refinements where applicable, trackable and enforceable
- Label clarity, consistency, simplicity
- Consistency and grower understanding of enforcement approaches
- Emphasizing “living workshop” opportunities in new EPA decisions incorporating strategies/final mitigation implementation



## About OPMP



## Questions?

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