

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials Year in Review

March 2, 2026

2025/2026 Directors and Officers



President – Kelly Friend, Florida

President-Elect - Brian Verhougstraete, Michigan

Director – Patrick Farquhar, North Carolina

Director – Sarah Caffery, Indiana

At Large Director -Bob Blankenburg, Alaska

At Large Director – Otto Oemig, Wisconsin

Past President – Gretchen Paluch, Iowa

SFIREG Chair - Steve Dwinell, Vermont

Executive Secretary- Amy Sullivan

Treasurer - Gabrielle Sather-Olson

AAPCO'S MISSION

To represent states in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policies and programs related to the sale, use, transport, and disposal of pesticides.

How does AAPCO accomplish the mission?

- Annual Meeting and Conference
- Full SFIREG and JWCs
- Networking and coordination efforts
 - Co-regulators/All state calls
 - Associations (multiple liaisons established)





Regularly Scheduled Activities for AAPCO

- Monthly AAPCO Board of Director's Meetings
- Monthly meetings with EPA OPP Leadership
- Monthly meetings with EPA OECA Leadership

Keeping it all on the radar

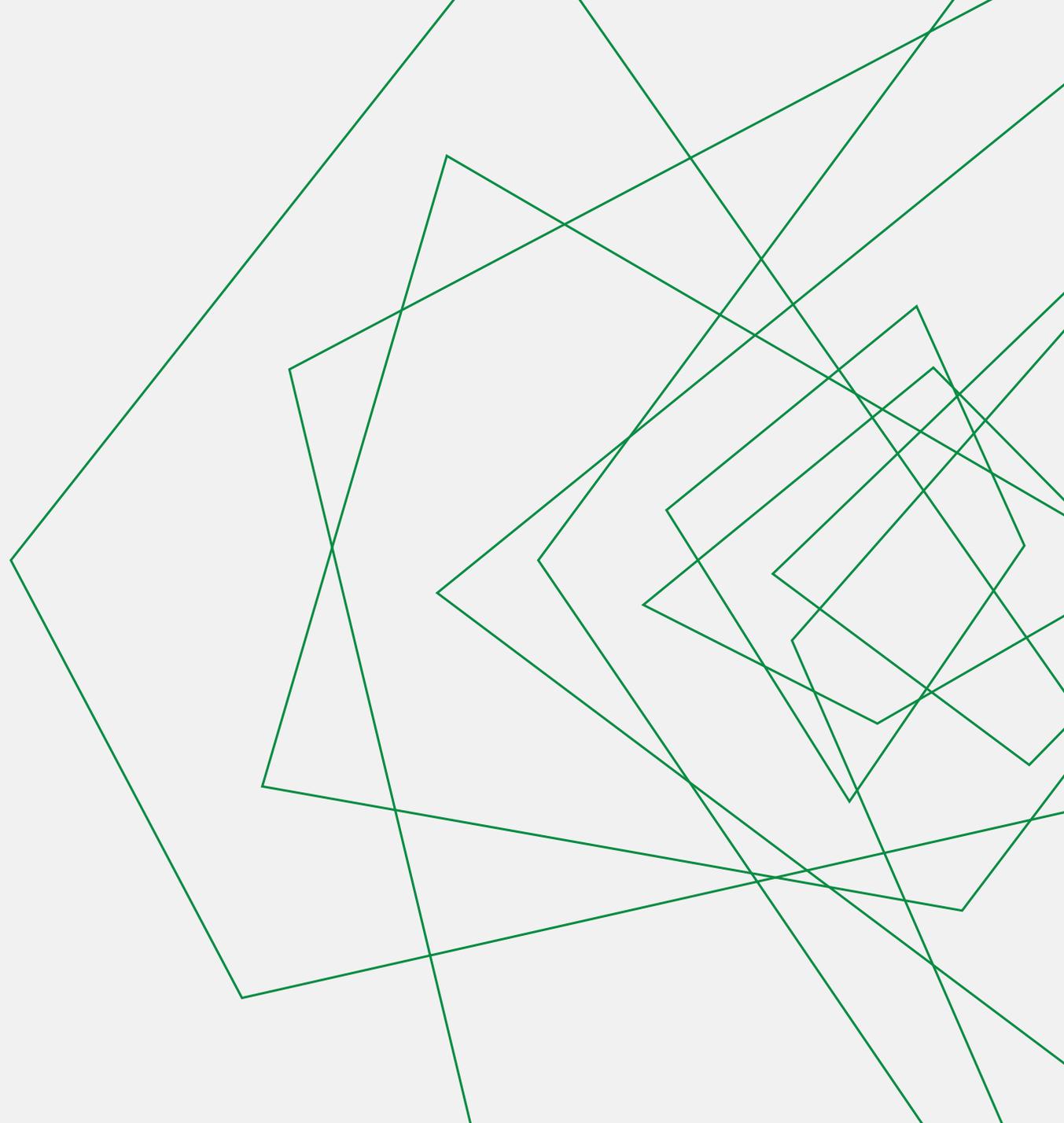
- State & Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Funding
- Support for coordinated work with Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEPs)
- Certification and Training Plan Implementation
- EPA Endangered Species Strategies and Implementation
- Digital Labeling/Web-Distributed Labeling
- PRIA 5 – Bilingual Labeling
- Pesticide Registration Decisions

Committees

- **Check Sample Program** - *Ping Wan, OISC*
- **Laboratory Committee** - *Ashley Pierce, VA*
- **Nominations** – *Gretchen Paluch, IA*
- **PIRT Steering** – *Bob Blankenburg, AK*
- **PREP Steering** – *Kelly Friend, FL*
- **SFIREG** - *Steve Dwinell, VT*
 - Pesticide Operations and Management (POM) – *Ernie Lugo, AZ*
 - Environmental Quality Issues (EQI) – *Raj Mann, MN*
 - Endangered Species Strategy Implementation (ESI) -*Kevin Kern, MI*

Standing Committees

- **Spring 2026 Meeting** – Brian Verhougstraete, MI
- **Worker Protection** - *Kelly Friend, FL and Patrick Farquhar, NC*
- **Life Membership & Memorials** - *Pat Jones, NC*



Workgroups

- **Industry Relations** - *Derrick Lastinger, GA and Janet Hou, BASF*
- **Pollinator Protection** - *Pat Jones, NC*
- **25(b) Improvement** - *Daniel Duer, PA, Samantha Tochen, WA and Kim Nemeth, Procter & Gamble*
- **Technology** - *Nathan Davis, OISC*
- **Endangered Species** – *Harris Walters, FL and Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, KS*
- **E-Commerce** - *Toby Primbs, OR*
- **Meeting Arrangements** – *Steve Dwinell, VT*
- **NEW! Devices** – *Jolynn Morris, CO and Kim Nemeth, Procter & Gamble*

Liaisons

- **AAPSE** – *Amanda Strouse - DE*
- **ASPCRO** – *John Pitcock, KY*
- **NASDA** – *Kelly Friend, FL*
- **PPDC** – *TBD*
- **TPSA** – *Rob Hofsetter, MD*



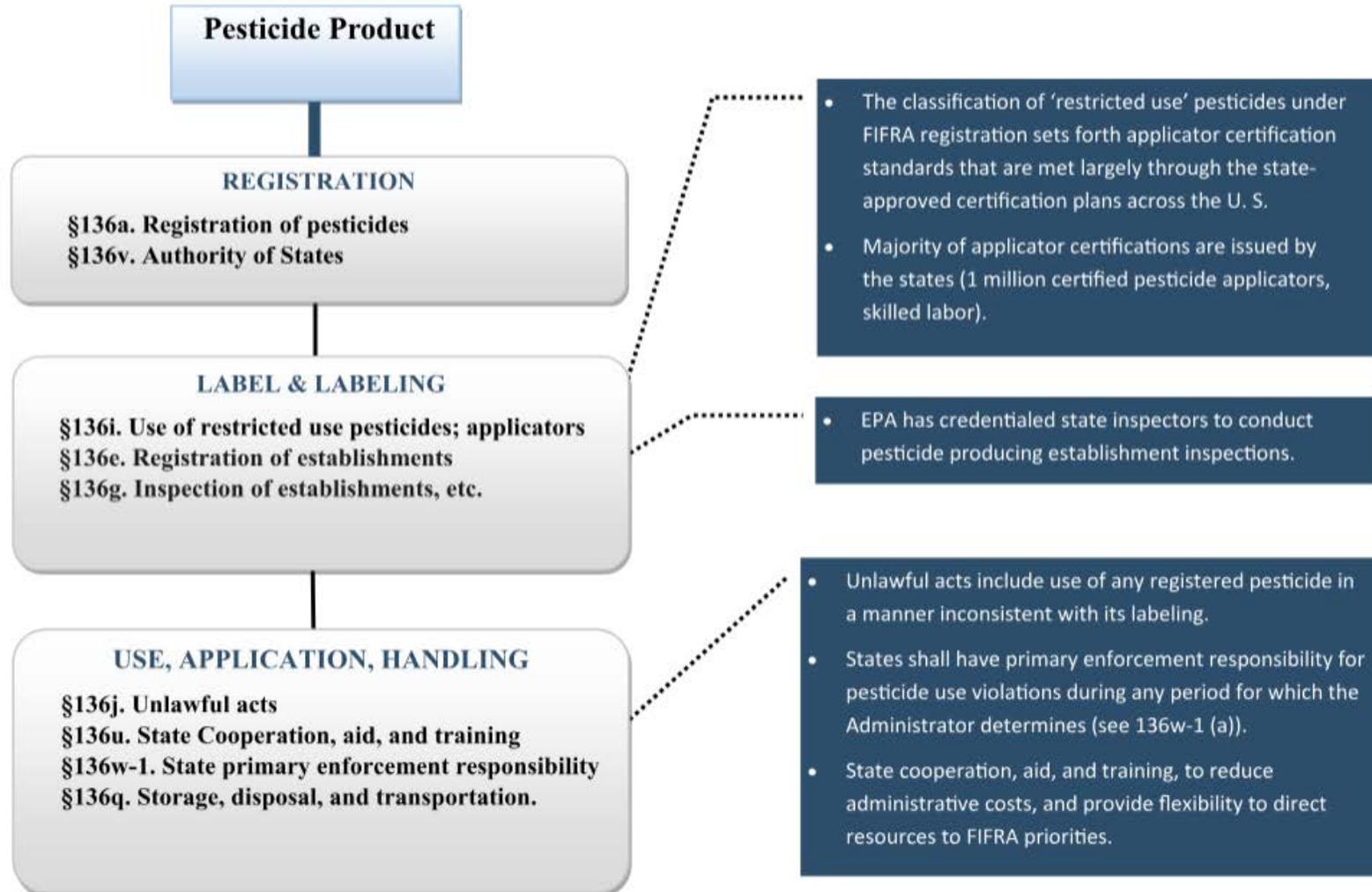
2025-2026 AAPCO Activities

- Monitored SFIREG grant and State & Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funding and hosted call with state lead agencies to share information on budget developments.
- Created three informational guides to include an Overview of State/Federal Co-Regulatory Framework, a FIFRA Roadmap, and a SFIREG Infographic.
- Dicamba comments to EPA requesting clear, enforceable labels, supporting state flexibility/collateral labels, and encouraging engagement with SLAs.



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U.S. Code: Title 7 - AGRICULTURE





AAPCO Overview of the State/Federal Co-Regulatory Framework

The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) was formed in 1947, in response to the enactment of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Recognizing the new law's impact on state pesticide programs, state regulators formed AAPCO to coordinate efforts, address shared concerns, promote regulatory uniformity, and more formally collaborate with federal agencies. State lead agencies (SLAs) are responsible for implementing and enforcing the majority of pesticide regulations in the U.S. AAPCO's mission is to represent the SLAs in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policies and programs related to the sale, distribution, use, transport, and disposal of pesticides.

In 1978, EPA and AAPCO established the State FIFRA Issues, Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) through a cooperative agreement annually funded by EPA. For over 47 years, SFIREG has exemplified cooperative federalism by providing EPA and state lead agencies a formal means to transparently and proactively address pesticide regulatory issues.

In addition to fostering open dialogue, AAPCO and SFIREG play a vital role in translating federal pesticide policies into practical, workable solutions that can be effectively implemented locally by state agencies. By sharing on-the-ground insights and evaluating real-world impacts, AAPCO and SFIREG ensure national regulatory frameworks align with local realities.

Pesticide Regulation - Priority Areas in State Regulatory Programs

For decades, state lead agencies have played a critical role in implementing key statutory requirements of FIFRA and thereby helping EPA achieve its mission of protecting human health and the environment. Facilitating a uniform approach to pesticide regulation across the United States requires preservation of this partnership that is statutorily driven, particularly in the following key program areas:

1. State Pesticide Product Registration and Label Integrity

Section 3 of FIFRA [7 U.S.C. 136(a)] indicates in part that "no person in any State may distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is not registered under this subchapter." Pesticides are registered at the federal level to ensure their use will not pose unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. States play a role in the enforcement of proper registration and label integrity. One of AAPCO's goals is to encourage the development of pesticide labels that have directions for use that are stated in terms which can be easily read and understood by the average person likely to use or to supervise the use of the pesticide; and when followed, are adequate to protect applicators, workers and the public from personal injury, and to prevent unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. Historically, state product registrations combined with inspection experiences have addressed areas such as child resistant packaging, sanitizer and disinfectant product claims, public health product efficacy and access, compliance monitoring with FIFRA 25(b), FIFRA Section 18 and FIFRA Section 24(c), experimental use permit monitoring, cancellations by EPA in response to the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, etc. Considering the number of products (greater than 10,000, in many cases) registered by a single state each year, the cumulative work completed by state registration programs serves to assure up-to-date products and labels are in the marketplace, supports certainty in applicator access to products, enables timely access to container labeling



and product information for incident response and poison control, as well as delivering market compliance, consumer protection and efficacious products.

2. Pesticide Sale, Distribution, and Use Enforcement

Under Section 26 of FIFRA [7 U.S.C. 136w-1] states have primary responsibility for regulating the sale, distribution and use of pesticides across the nation. Under established programs and laws authorized under FIFRA, state-level inspection activities ensure compliance with pesticide use requirements, as well as deliver safeguards and checkpoints for worker safety and environmental health. State inspectors are the experts and the critical eyes and ears of pesticide regulation. They respond to pesticide incidents in a timely manner and are familiar with the pesticides most commonly used in their local area. State programs ensure a fair regulatory playing field, promptly respond to pesticide incident reports, effectively communicate and work with the regulated community (industry, etc.), address national priority areas, and adapt to use of new technologies, registration/reregistration requirements, and changes in regulation. In many cases, SLAs can resolve inquiries that need not proceed to a higher level of follow-up. State inspection teams are highly trained and adaptable - playing a key role in ensuring that pesticide regulation prioritizes both compliance and public well-being in the changing landscape of pesticide regulation.

3. Pesticide Applicator Certification/Training

Section 23 of FIFRA [7 U.S.C. 136u] provides the Administrator the ability to enter into cooperative agreements with States to train and certify applicators. Under EPA's federal certification rule (40 CFR, part 171), an individual must be certified to purchase and apply high-risk pesticides classified as restricted use. It's the state, territory, and tribes that issue applicator certifications to the majority of the 1 million certified pesticide applicators in the United States. These programs serve an estimated 930,000 noncertified applicators, as well. Certifying authorities work under an EPA-approved program/state plan and with a network of pesticide safety education programs, that train individuals in core applicator competency standards. A certification ensures individuals are educated and tested on their understanding of pesticide labels, equipment, target pests, hazards, and use. This educational foundation extends outward to convey the importance of pesticide labels in the market. It also serves as a basis for underlying compliance standards and accountability for use of pesticide products. One of AAPCO's goals is to encourage consistency and uniformity among the states in the implementation of their pesticide regulatory programs, and this is reflected in certification programs.

State programs provide regular checkpoints for applicators seeking to maintain their certification and deliver a skilled labor market for agriculture, food security, professional pest control, public health, as well as a variety of other service sectors. Applicator certification works in tandem with state product registration and enforcement programs to maintain markets, services, and instill public confidence in the use of pesticides that can be applied safely, with minimum risk to human health and the environment.

Identify

Through a formal process, pesticide issues identified by state lead agencies are referred to SFIREG for consideration.

SFIREG

The State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) is a committee of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), that provides a formal and transparent process for all state lead agencies (SLAs) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work cooperatively in developing practical solutions to national pesticide issues.

Analyze

Significant issues are assigned to formal SFIREG working committees - made up of EPA and SLA officials - where a practical solution will be developed in a collaborative forum.

Implement

SFIREG works with EPA to implement solutions, fostering national consistency and clarity.

Pesticide Regulation Priority Areas in State Regulatory Programs



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THANK YOU!

<https://aapco.org/>

Kelly Friend

AAPCO President

