



EPA Regional Report

SFIREG Sub lead

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Region 3

EPA Sub lead Regional Report

- Report provided at each full SFIREG meeting, spring and fall
- State regional reps provide reports so we get the states' perspective
- Regional report allows EPA to offer their perspectives on what their states are dealing with
- Provide list of Pre-SFIREG topics to all EPA regionals managers for input
- Report provided to SFIREG for inclusion in meeting minutes

Topic of Interest

Pesticides in Water Calculator

- EQI has been working to improve SLA understanding and use of the EPA's Pesticides in Water Calculator.
 - *Question for SLAs : Is there interest in attending a webinar on EPA's Pesticide in Water Calculator (PWC)?*
- Some states have **expressed interest** in attending a webinar regarding the calculator.

Topic of Interest

Pesticide Treated Seed

- EQI is tracking EPA developments on evaluation of treated seed.
 - *Question for SLAs : Do SLAs have any current regulatory issues or investigations involving treated seed?*
- States have concurred that it would be helpful to have a **special purpose call** or other form of communication for major developments.
- Several SLAs have situations developing with neonic residue from treated seed. One is in the midst of litigation on this issue, with neonicotinoid residues from treated seed impacting groundwater and surface water.

Topic of Interest

Expiration Dates on SLNs

- EPA will no longer recommend expiration dates for 24(c) Special Local Need registrations, although states may choose to require them.
 - *Question for SLAs : Does this policy change affect how states will handle 24(c) registrations? Do SLAs know who to contact to get questions answered about 24(c) registrations?*
- Some SLAs do not anticipate the change being a problem but **prefer to have expiration dates** and have noted dates are required at the state program level.
- **No concerns** regarding POCs.

Topic of Interest

New World Screwworm

- The USDA and state Departments of Agriculture are monitoring the occurrence of New World Screwworm in Mexico, and are taking actions to prevent entry into the U.S.
 - *Question for SLAs : Are any SLAs taking any actions to prepare for the occurrence and response to NWS in their state?*
- Not an issue for all regions, but other agencies have still implemented monitoring efforts in the area and/or presented on NWS.
- Regions with more concern have been coordinating on multiple fronts and have partnered with the Regional Ag Advisor and Regional Homeland Security Advisor to garner information and useful tools to share with states.

Topic of Interest

Label Complexity of OTT Dicamba products

- States that have reviewed the label language required by EPA for the three OTT dicamba products have noted the complexity of this language and have expressed concern about interpretation and compliance with label language.
 - *Question for SLAs : What questions are you receiving in your state regarding these registrations and the label language for these products?*
- This is not applicable in all regions, but there has been discussion regarding the extensive & detailed record-keeping requirements on the approved labels.
- SLAs are hoping to avoid the numerous drift/volatilization complaints sustained with previously registered products, in part because growers made seed purchase decisions before the latest dicamba registrations were announced.

Topic of Interest

Resources for Implementation of ESA Strategies

- The ESI Working Committee has been gathering information on efforts by groups working on resources to assist SLAs, growers, and applicators.

Question for SLAs : Are there other resources that you are aware of that could be useful for assisting implementation of ESA strategies.

- Regions shared they have given multiple ESA compliance strategy presentations to state FIFRA inspectors and state agencies.
- Some SLAs are finding ways to train and support inspectors as they encounter pesticide labels with ESA mitigation requirements.
- Concerns exist about the absence of guidance or stated expectations for regions about implementing ESA label requirements. Concerned about multiple sources of information for growers that are not authoritative and may not be consistent among each other.

Other Topics

- EPA and SLAs facing concerns over **staffing shortages and loss of experience/expertise** due to retirements. Focus on have-to-dos and most important components of our work.
- **Adequately regulating UAV and other unmanned applications**; whether to separate UAV applicators from aerial applicators in C&T programs and developing effective performance standards for manuals and exams.
- SLAs **implementing C&T Plans** according to approved timelines. Changes to licensing and systems takes time and effort. Decent number of substantial modifications across Regions.
- Concerns expressed about the FY2022-2025 **FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance**, which EPA extended last year with minor modifications, instead of releasing substantially revised guidance for FY2026-2029, as originally planned.