

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# PPDC Workgroup on Pollinator Protection

Presentation to PPDC

May 3, 2012

# Initial Charge of the work group from the PPDC (April, 2011)

- Initial, science-based risk management approaches, including appropriate labeling restrictions and training;
- Development of information on state approaches and authorities;
- Transfer of lessons learned by various stakeholders to improve existing management practices;
- Continuing international communication;
- Other issues the Agency wishes to bring to the workgroup's attention.

# Common Issues

- Minimize pollinator damage while controlling pests to protect crops
- Provide residual toxicity information on the labels
- Improve labeling language
- Highlight success stories (e.g. Yuma, AZ)
- Improve training

# Best Management Practices Subgroup

- Encourage flexible timing of pesticide application to blooming crops to result in the least amount of harm.
- “Standardize” pollinator protection training for pesticide applicators and advisors across the US
- Highlight case studies that document increase returns to growers using BMPs

# Best Management Practices Subgroup

- Provide residual toxicity information on the labels
- Encourage industry to fund and research seed coat technology and equipment design to reduce dust drift

# Communication/Education and Training Subgroup

- “Standardizing” the various training resources. However, crops, products, regions and pollinator species vary making it difficult to develop a “one size fits all” approach
- Incorporating successful elements of case studies (e.g. Yuma, AZ) in training programs
- A number of educational programs exist or are under development
- Bee registries are not “the” solution

# Labeling Subgroup

- Environmental Hazard Statements are not consistent and difficult to understand. Simplifying language (e.g. eliminate “potentially toxic” , “highly toxic” and replace with “toxic”)
- Develop a “labeling interpretation manual” for clarity
- Provide simple label statements on pesticide’s residual toxicity



# Labeling Subgroup

- Consider revisions to the Label Review Manual
- Solicit input from state lead agencies (SLA's) before finalizing label revisions
- Various label issues overlap with BMPs, communication/education/training and enforcement subgroups

# Enforcement Subgroup

- Improve SLA investigations of bee kill incidents
  - Develop and standardize training manual for investigations
  - Develop a method for tracking incidents/investigations (audit trail)
  - Develop criteria and guidance for states to convey information to EPA
  - Develop procedures to make it easier for states to determine when and where pesticides were used

# Enforcement Subgroup

- Develop consistent and simple procedures for notifying SLAs of possible bee kills due to pesticides
- Clarify whether states have authority to obtain incident details (going beyond what is required by FIFRA)
- Develop a process for periodic review of investigation guidelines to incorporate new knowledge, suggestions and improvements
- Engage SLAs to improve bee kill investigations
  - Use SFIREG and NASDA meetings to convey the message

# Field Trip to Yuma

- Long time Agricultural Community
- Winter lettuce and vegetable capital of the US
- Vegetables, melons, alfalfa, cotton, wheat, safflower, beans, corn, Sudan grass, onions and several crops grown for seed
- Pollinators needed and used
- Microcosm of many of our issues – water, ESA, Worker Exposure, pollinators, etc.

# What We Did

- Brought Don Brady and Rick Keigwin to see first hand what works and why
- Rick Smith organized a full day and a half
- Visited Pest Control advisors, farmers, applicators
- Saw and heard first hand about all the interfaces

# What I Learned

- Local solutions can work and will be most effective –one size doesn't fit all –no silver bullet
- Pests need to be controlled
- Pollinators are necessary for ag production and for other important reasons and need to be protected
- A champion helps a lot
- Creativity and Flexibility are important
- Good Communication is the key