

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PPDC Workgroup on Pollinator Protection



PRESENTATION TO PPDC

JUNE 5, 2014

PPDC Pollinator Protection Workgroup Recommendations of Labeling Subgroup

2

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended that labels replace “visiting” with “foraging” on labels that have bee warnings. For example: “Do not apply when bees are foraging” is better than “Do not apply when bees are actively visiting”	EPA is implementing this recommendation as labels are reviewed through the normal process of label review.

PPDC Pollinator Protection Workgroup Recommendations of Labeling Subgroup

3

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended that labels be harmonized and protective language should be made clearer.	EPA strengthened labeling language to address acute toxicity to bees for products containing neonicotinoids. More restrictive language on existing labels is to be retained while pollinator protection box and additional directions for use have been added.

PPDC Pollinator Protection Workgroup Recommendations of Labeling Subgroup

4

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended that RT_{25} data may be a useful tool to potentially mitigate exposure.	EPA has compiled all existing residual toxicity data submitted to the Agency into a database. EPA intends to make this data available on its website in 2014.

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Recommendations of BMP Subgroup

5

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended more research on BMPs and to have them posted on the web in a centralized location.	USDA with the IPM Centers are developing a Pollinator-Crop Production BMP website. Also some BMPs are available at: http://pesticidestewardship.org

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Recommendations of Communication and Training Subgroup

6

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup identified many kinds of pesticide applicator training information around the country that includes pollinator awareness information.	The workgroup has been compiling pollinator awareness applicator training modules and materials. The educational materials can be posted on the web and used as a resource.

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Recommendations of Enforcement Subgroup

7

Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended more uniform and transparent bee kill investigations.	EPA Region 5 developed guidance for states conducting investigations of bee incidents by working collaboratively with EPA HQ, states and beekeepers.

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Next Steps: Labeling Subgroup

8

- Smaller subgroups may be formed out of this subgroup to ensure better balance and representation of all stakeholder groups
- Meet more regularly, possibly every month
- Once the Draft PRN on label language for all products that are acutely toxic to bees is out for public comment, the subgroup will discuss it and submit recommendations to the agency
- Review existing state programs and identify issues that would improve the intersection of state programs and labeling and focus on advice that the agency can implement
- Explore available information and additional data needs to inform whether and how EPA should address labeling for tank mixes

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Next Steps: BMP and Training/Education/Communication Subgroup

- Explore ideas to provide incentives for growers to adopt BMPs and differentiate incentives for growers of pollinated and non-pollinated crops
- Combine the BMP and Education, Training and Communication subgroup
- Explore knowledge gaps for crop-specific BMPs
- Investigate how to utilize existing programs (e.g., NRCS, and Co-Operative extension) to implement BMP practices that bring together pollinator protection and crop production
- Explore pollinator protection certification/competency program that could supplement a PCO's qualifications

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Next Steps: Enforcement Subgroup

10

- EPA will provide the workgroup with our incident data collection needs
- Information without Enforcement: The WG commented that it may be useful to explore and identify a process/mechanism whereby incident information can be collected and used by the State and/or EPA but collected in a way that does not trigger investigation and enforcement action. Such a process/mechanism may involve co-operative extension, or crop advisors

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Additional Areas to Explore

11

- A comment was made that the WG could also focus on seed treatment and non-*Apis* bees.
- Explore how EPA collects water quality monitoring data.