

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



PPDC Workgroup on Pollinator Protection



PRESENTATION TO PPDC

OCTOBER 21, 2015

PPDC Pollinator Protection Workgroup

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The Pollinator Workgroup's original (2011) objective:

- ❑ Explore initial, science-based risk management approaches including appropriate label restrictions and training;
- ❑ Develop information on State approaches and different authorities
- ❑ Transfer of lesson learned by various stakeholders in order to improve existing management practices [across multiple factors affecting pollinator declines]
- ❑ Continuing international communication; and,
- ❑ Consider other issues the WG wishes to bring to the PPDC's attention

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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 has begun implementing this recommendation as labels are reviewed through the normal process of label review.

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Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended that labels be harmonized and protective language should be made clearer.	In 2014, 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. In 2015, EPA issued a proposal to protect bees from acutely toxic pesticides. The proposal had a 3 month comment period and has resulted in more than 110,000 comments.



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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 made this data available on its website in 2014.

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Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup recommended more research on BMPs and to have them posted on the web in a centralized location.	EPA, North Carolina State University and the Center for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) have developed a Pollinator-Crop Production BMP website for pesticide applicators, beekeepers and others. http://pesticidestewardship.org/PollinatorProtection/Pages/default.aspx

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Workgroup Advice	EPA Response
The workgroup identified many kinds of pesticide applicator training information around the country that includes pollinator awareness information.	The workgroup compiled pollinator awareness applicator training modules and materials. The educational materials have been posted on the web at http://pesticidestewardship.org/PollinatorProtection/Pages/default.aspx.

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