Proposed Risk Mitigation Measures for Reregistration of Dimethoate

EPA is proposing limiting the use of dimethoate to a single spray for certain crops to mitigate risks posed to drinking water by its application. The crops of concern include field/pop corn, wheat, pears, alfalfa, safflower, pecans, peppers, grass seed, cherries, and succulent peas. USDA is concerned that losing the option of a second spray of dimethoate or these 10 crops (see list above) will be a problem for growers.

Growers Notice: USDA requests that growers, Extension and any other stakeholders to write a letter to EPA supporting the use of 2 applications dimethoate per season (and/or cutting). Contact: Teung F. Chin, Ph.D.; Biological Scientist, Office of Pest Management Policy; Agricultural Research Service; United States Department of Agriculture. Phone (301) 734-8943. Fax (301) 734-5992, Teung.F.Chin@usda.gov

Proposed Risk Mitigation Measures for Reregistration of dicloran

The fungicide botran (DCNA or dicloran) is currently under review for reregistration. Dicloran is a contact fungicide used on a broad variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts and ornamental plants. EPA released its risk assessment on botran for public comment, its human health and environmental fate and effects risk assessments and related documents for dicloran. Specifically, they solicited public comment on risk management ideas or proposals. EPA is expected to complete its regulatory review (RED) of the fungicide Botran (DCNA or dicloran) by April of 2006. EPA is in the mitigation phase of their regulatory review. Please send any responses or comments ASAP to: Kent L. Smith, Office of Pest Management Policy. United States Department of Agriculture 202-720-3186, ksmith@ars.usda.gov.

New Telephone Line Established for Information about Antimicrobial Pesticides

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) is now taking inquiries, via their telephone help-line and web-based services, regarding antimicrobial pesticides and pesticide products. Therefore, EPA's Antimicrobial Division hotline has been terminated, and EPA web pages with references to the Agency hotline are being updated to reflect this change.

NPIC is a toll-free telephone service that provides objective, science-based information about a wide variety of pesticide-related subjects. The service is available daily, 6:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. (PT), and the toll-free phone number is 1-800-858-7378. (US-EPA: News, March 28, 2006).
Funding Opportunity

- CSREES has released the 2006 Request for Applications (RFA) for the New Technologies for Ag Extension Program to increase the capacity of each State to contribute expertise and content to the development of eXtension, a national web-based information and education delivery system that provides direct access to science-based educational resources from land-grant and other partner institutions about subjects of high importance to the general public. This initiative will dramatically change how the Cooperative Extension System (CES) does business with its customers. In FY 2006, through a cooperative agreement, CSREES plans to support partial deployment of eXtension and enable a technology-conscious nation to make use of the valuable information and education that the CES has to offer. Applications are due by close of business, May 23, 2006. The full RFA may be downloaded from the CSREES web site under Funding Opportunities at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1560

Agricultural and Environmental News

- In observance of National Poison Prevention Week, March 19-25, EPA is reminding the public-at-large of the importance of keeping household pesticides and chemicals out of the reach of children to prevent accidental poisonings. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that more than 9 out of 10 suspected poisonings occur at home, and the culprit usually is a common household product. Tips on how to protect children from pesticide and lead poisonings are available in both English and Spanish at EPA's Web site at: http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/10_tips/ (USEPA, News for Release: Monday, March 20, 2006).

- EPA has recently issued 2 Federal Register notices related to its' proposal to update data requirements for the registration of biochemical and microbial pesticides. A quick overview is followed by sections on 'Background' and 'Resources'. March 8, 2006: EPA released for public comment a proposed rule to update data requirements per 40 CFR, Part 158 for the registration of biochemical and microbial pesticides. The proposal includes revision of the definition of these 2 types of pesticides. The public comment period is open until June 6, 2006. See the proposed rule at: www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPAPEST/2006/March/Day-08/p2185.htm to review for comment; it contains further directions on how to submit comments to EPA on the proposed rule.

- In a case of practicing what they preach, today EPA announced 100 percent of its power consumption at its Washington, D.C. headquarters will be supplied by green, renewable power. In addition, the vast majority of energy at over 30 regional and laboratory facilities will come from sustainable sources (Washington, D.C. - March 23, 2006).

- EPA issued an order in the Federal Register on March 29, 2006, amending registrations of azinphos methyl (AZM) products to terminate the “Group 2” uses, which include caneberries, cotton, cranberries, peaches / nectarines, potatoes, and Southern pine seed orchards. This order follows up on an August 2005 notice of receipt of requests from the registrants to voluntarily cancel the Group 2 uses. Under the existing stocks provisions, distribution or sale of AZM products for these uses is allowed until March 31, 2006, and use of these products is allowed until September 30, 2006. (US-EPA: News, March 29, 2006).

- The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the cumulative risk associated with chloroacetanilide pesticides (acetochlor and alachlor) are below the Agency’s level of concern. The chloroacetanilides group also includes butachlor, which was not incorporated into the cumulative assessment because there are no U.S. registrations or established tolerances. The chloroacetanilides share a common mechanism of toxicity (they cause a common toxic effect by the same sequence of major biochemical events) due to their ability to cause

The U.S. poison control centers receive a call every 15 seconds about an accidental poisoning. The National Safety Council records show that more than 50 percent of the two million poisoning incidents each year involve children under six years of age. Most are due to children swallowing common household items like prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, cosmetics, personal care and cleaning products. Poisonings also involve house plants, tobacco products and alcohol (US-EPA).

April 4-6, 2006
The Fifth National IPM Symposium, "Delivering on a Promise," will be held in St. Louis, MO at the Adams Mark Hotel. The deadline for Poster Abstract submission is December 16th, 2005. More information is at: http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposiumv/

May 6-9, 2006
All Things Organic, Chicago, IL
http://www.organicexpo.com%20/

May 14-17, 2006

August 7-9, 2006

August 15-17, 2006

October 4-7, 2006
Natural Products Expo East, Baltimore, MD. http://www.expoeast.com/

Comment Section
If there are any comments from the information presented, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: jbanieck@wvu.edu