

AAPCO Workgroup or Liaison Report to Annual Meeting

Work Group/Liaison Name: **Laboratory Committee**

Lead Person's Name: **Michelle Bogner**

Members: **Audra Gile (former Chair), Andy Randall, Patty Lucas, Ken McManus, Eric Petty, Yoko Johnson, Gary Horvath, Gale Hargood, Jim Zhan, Amitabha Chakvabarti, Ping Wan, Steve Sobek, Heidi Hikes, Chris Sober, Beth Hardin Michelle Bogner, and other State FIFRA laboratory representatives who may attend.**

Date of Report: **March 1, 2015**

Issues to be raised for discussion by AAPCO Board or General Session:

These are the issues the working group or liaison wishes to raise for specific deliberation by the AAPCO Board of Directors and/or the AAPCO General Session at the annual meeting. *(Note: This section can also include a self-assessment as to the effectiveness and continued need for this workgroup/liaison function.)*

The Laboratory Committee has no issues to be raised at this time.

General summary of work group/liaison activities for the year:

This summary will be included in the General Session meeting folder
(Note: Reports that contain specific recommendations will be acted upon individually.)

The Laboratory Committee meets annually during the AAPCO spring meeting. The following report outlines activities from last year's meeting.

The Laboratory Committee met on Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency during the AAPCO annual meeting in Arlington, VA. There were a total of 23 participants, a slight increase from the previous year. Of those participants, 17 were from state laboratories, four were from EPA and two were from industry.

Ping Wan of the Indiana State Chemist's Office provided an update on the AAPCO Formulation Check Sample Program. In the previous check sample round, 76 laboratories participated, similar to the prior year. Once again, there were more international labs that participated than domestic labs. A graph was presented showing the drop in private labs to less than half the number that were participating in 2008, a slight decrease in U.S. regulatory labs over the six years and the doubling in participation of international laboratories.

An update on the Wisconsin Residue Check Sample Program was given by Steve Sobek of Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Two rounds of samples were sent out in the last year, one set of soil in the spring and another set of foliage in the fall. Since some laboratories had given feedback regarding difficulties with the matrix used for the foliage samples in the past, an additional set of foliage using a different matrix was sent to some labs as a pilot test before making any changes in the matrix used for future proficiency tests (PTs). Wisconsin is working to address a history of issues with glyphosate inconsistencies. Wisconsin is still working toward getting accredited against the ISO 17043 standard for PT providers. Since they are compliant with the standard, they are now on the list of acceptable PT providers published by The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). Steve feels that this complies with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's requirements and will work towards meeting the requirements for labs accredited to the ISO 17025 standard to use accredited/approved PT providers when available.

Terry Cole from EPA's repository gave an update on changes that had been made to help get standards to regulatory labs more quickly. Staffing has been cut for the repository making it more challenging to keep up with orders, especially during the summer when many states have their busy seasons for drift and other complaints. The repository is using a new form for ordering standards that is on their website. They are also now putting out regular newsletters that are distributed via AgLabs. These newsletters contain information on standards that have expiration dates coming up in the near future, standards that are currently on backorder and standards recently received. It is hoped that by providing this information proactively, labs will not request standards that are needed quickly when they can see from the newsletter that they are on backorder and save repository staff time by not having to send responses to these requests.

Dea Zimmerman shared highlights from the 2013 PREP Laboratory Managers' course held in Davis, CA. Michelle Yaras updated the committee on the current EPA funding for national laboratory workshops. Audra Gile gave a brief explanation of how to apply for this grant money and go about putting together a workshop. Many states are concerned that they do not have the space or expertise needed to host such a workshop. There will be \$41,600 available for the 2015 fiscal year as there are not states or tribes in the rotation for receiving equipment money that year. The committee appreciates all of the efforts from EPA to support the regulatory labs through the repository, equipment monies and funding of the national workshops.

A report on the 2013 SFIREG meetings was presented by Michelle Bogner of Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Topics discussed were the status of pollinator protection labeling requirements, the bee guidance document, compost residues and Dow AgroScience's work on this, the new workgroup working on biocides used in fracking, Regional Project Officers' Training, the new Cooperative Agreement Guidance and Grant Template, marijuana testing in states that have legalized use, increase of indoor pesticide misuse, and EPA Performance Measures.

There was further discussion on the Bee Guidance Document and especially the laboratory method portion of the document to get feedback from laboratories on whether they have seen it and, if so, if they have used it and was it helpful. Many were not aware of it so it will be distributed, again. States shared their experiences with bee kill cases. This seems to be a problem some states deal with a lot and other states rarely, if ever, see a case.

An informational presentation was given on the use of methomyl in baiting and killing nuisance animals by Michelle Bogner of Michigan.

Terry Back of EPA/OECA/MAMPD gave a demonstration of EPA's Inspector Wiki. Participants discussed whether a similar site for labs would be helpful. Michael Hastings from Dow AgroScience presented the results of a collaborative study conducted on residues in compost. James Stry of DuPost Crop Protections presented an overview of the registration process from the registrant's perspective.

Several states in attendance have brief updates on current issues in their state lab including efforts toward accreditation, development of new methods, renovations/moves, interesting cases, and funding and staffing challenges.

The Laboratory Committee is meeting during the 2015 AAPCO meeting on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10. Agenda topics include a presentation on the marijuana methods being used by Colorado; challenges and problems in choosing sample sizes; a potential alternative to traditional swab sampling; methods for analysis of bee wax and honey; state updates; and updates from the check sample programs, EPA repository, grant funding and SFIREG. In addition, the committee attendees will attend several of the AAPCO General Session presentations.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Bogner, Michigan