AAPCO Workgroup or Liaison Report to Annual Meeting

Work Group/Liaison Name: NASDA Liaison Work Group(s)
Lead Persons : Steve Dwinell, Chuck Andrews & Jeff Comstock
Members:

1) Pollinators Protection Plans
   John Campbell (MS), Brian Rowe (MI), John Scott (CO) & Jerry Sauter (ND)

2) Worker Protection Rule
   Not Reported

3) Waters of the U.S. Rule
   Cary Giguere (VT)

Date of Report: March 8, 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.)

NONE for 2015 Annual Meeting

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.)

As listed above, the major issues and program areas AAPCO members and State Lead Agency staff worked on in collaboration with NASDA during 2014 were Pollinator Protection Plans, the Worker Protection Rule and the Waters of the U.S. Rule.

1) The primary focus of the AAPCO Pollinator Protection Workgroup was to consult with agricultural and apiary industry representatives, make recommendations for the design of pollinator protection plans, evaluate the resources available or required to support pollinator plans and to identify the resource or logistic constraints to successful implementation of pollinator plans. The work of AAPCO Pollinator Protection Workgroup was paralleled by a similar effort focused on consultation with pesticide control officials. The collaboration with State Lead Agencies was led by the SFIREG Pollinator Protection Workgroup.
2) The function of the Worker Protection Workgroup was to review and submit comment on EPA’s proposed Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Rule. The proposed WPS Rule was published in March, 2014 and the comment period closed in August, 2014. Publication of a final rule is anticipated during the Summer of 2015. The AAPCO WPS workgroup collaborated with NASDA to exchange analysis of the WPS Rule impacts, identify areas of shared concerns or divergent perspectives and coordinate on consistency of comments. AAPCO did file official comments to the docket based on the work of the WPS workgroup.

3) The function of the ad hoc Waters of the U.S. Workgroup was to review and submit comment on EPA’s proposed Definitions of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act Rule. The proposed WOTUS Rule was published in March, 2014 and the comment period closed in November, 2014. Publication of a final rule is anticipated during the Autumn of 2015. The AAPCO WOTUS workgroup collaborated with a large group of state associations to review the proposed rule and conduct a series of question and answer sessions with EPA Office of Water and Army Corps of Engineers staff prior to drafting comments based on AAPCO specific concerns and issues directly related to FIFRA State Lead Agencies and the relationship with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs. The state associations that participated in this collaboration included, for example, Clean Water Administrators, State Foresters, NASDA, Municipal Waste Water Managers, Regional Irrigation Districts and Transportation Agencies. AAPCO did file official comments to the docket based on the work of the WOTUS workgroup.