Georgia’s approach to mitigating off-target movement of pesticides

Required Training
Herbicide Resistance

2005-Glyphosate resistant palmer amaranth (pigweed) found in Georgia.

• Huge problem for cotton producers in Georgia.
• Over one billion dollars has been spent controlling this one problematic weed in the last 10-12 years
Great news for producers!

2010-Registrants began talking to GDA about 2,4D & dicamba tolerant seed technologies.

- This would mean that herbicides with a history of drift and volatilization could be applied throughout the growing season when conditions are most favorable for off-target movement.
Things got loud!

• Off-target movement became a big concern for specialty crop producers in Georgia
• Georgia ranks #4 in fresh produce production.
• Cotton and many of these high value crops are grown in close proximity to one another.
Things starting getting a little crazy

• The auxin tolerant germplasm was made available to growers
• 2,4D was approved by EPA in some states and not others
• Lawsuits over synergistic concerns and ESA
Training begins in Georgia

2015-1st training events scheduled to address potential drift and misuse.

2016-additional training events. Approximately 2,000 growers/applicators trained.

2017- More ongoing training. Dicamba and 2,4D receive EPA approval for in-crop use.
Using Pesticides Wisely
Developed by Dr. Stanley Culpepper, University of Georgia, Weed Scientist
Very intense and very effective!
Registrant participation
One on one component
Training seems to have had an impact

• In 2016, Georgia had no official complaints of off-label use
How do we make training mandatory?

• 24c’s
  – Must be tied to managing pest resistance
• State RUP rule
  – Less flexible
• Registrants were a huge help! Understandably, they had lots of questions
• EPA came through by understanding the issues and working with us on 24c.
24c Training Statement

• USING PESTICIDES WISELY TRAINING:
• The producer, certified applicator, or person responsible for the application of this product on cotton or soybeans, in-crop, must attend Using Pesticides Wisely training that is approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. For more information on this training, contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture at 404-656-4958 or your local County Cooperative Extension Service office.
Challenges!

• Get the word out!
• Get everyone trained!
• Verify training
• Off label use
• Supplemental distribution
Auxin Webpage