

EPA Region 7 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

The pre-SFIREG meeting took place on May 9, 2017.

This was a conference call due to state budget issues

Attendees

- EPA R7: Shawn Hackett, Lacey Ridnour, Jamie Green, Damon Frizzell, Maren Taylor
- Iowa: Gretchen Paluch, Mark Lohafer, Laura Castro
- Nebraska: Tim Creger
- Kansas: Gary Meyer, Judy Glass, Elyse Appenfeller
- Missouri: Darryl Slade, Melissa May, Dawn Wall

State Updates

Iowa

- State budget issues and absorbing rising costs
- Preparing for complaints
- Significant work in the laboratory to better respond to pressure from organic producers on sample turnaround times
- More ground-level discussion of weed resistance (Palmer amaranth and water hemp)

Kansas

- State budget shortfalls should not have much effect on KDA
- 2 open positions in office have been filled
- 2 field staff retired/retiring

Missouri

- State legislature passed stiffer civil penalties for pesticide misuse
- Preparing for busy complaint year, particularly dicamba misuse

Nebraska

- Significant state budget shortfalls (currently forecasted at \$1.2 billion, 8-10% decrease in agency budget)
- Successfully launched on-demand pesticide applicator certification testing in June through Pearson Vue but many are not taking advantage of the online testing
- Now using South Dakota lab
- State hiring freeze, out of state travel restricted

EPA Updates

- Continuing Resolution through December 9; unknown what happens next
- Pesticide Program remains short-staffed
- PEI cases have been caught up

Region 7 gave an update on the C&T rule and WPS update.

Discussion regarding online testing and how Region 7 states will approach reciprocity with other states both within and outside of the region.

Discussion of lessons learned from misuse of Dicamba last year and preparations for the current complaint season. Region 7 created a comparison/ checklist for the label requirements that are unique for Extendimax and Engenia herbicides. Region 7 and OPP discussed these label requirements and from the list the main 5 items they are interested in are:

- Is the 110/220 buffer maintained (are farmers honoring the buffers)?
- Are the nozzle restrictions being followed?
- Are wind speed and wind directions restrictions being followed
- Are tank mix restrictions being honored.
- Have boom height and ground speed restrictions been followed.

Missouri brought up the Paraquat Mitigation Decision because of a fax that had been received (see below)



AGPPIMFP03@mda.
mo.gov_20170419_0

The following link puts the document into context <https://www.noticeandcomment.com/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-fdt-14561.aspx>.

This to make the other states aware of the decision in case they were unaware.

Discussion of how states handle drift enforcement. All agreed it is a difficult topic.

Discussion of those plans that have been made for the 2018 EPA Inspector workshop hosted by Kansas.

Request for volunteers from the other states, potential topics, etc.