

EPA Region 7 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

The pre-SFIREG meeting took place on November 2, 2017 at EPA Region 7 headquarters 11201 Renner Boulevard Lenexa, KS.

Attendees

- Region 7: Shawn Hackett, Lacey Ridnour, Jamie Green, Damon Frizzell, Maren Taylor, Mark Leshner, Tracey Ramsey, Chuck Cook, Branden Boatman, Viane Alvarado
- Iowa: Gretchen Paluch, Mark Lohafer, Laura Castro
- Nebraska: Tim Creger, Herbert Bates, Tammy Zimmerman
- Kansas: Judy Glass
- Missouri: Darryl Slade, Melissa May, Dawn Wall

State Updates

Iowa

- Mark Lohafer retiring December 12
- Adding 1 person
- Secretary may be leaving for USDA
- Flat line budget
- 255 use investigations, of those 100-110 were dicamba usually 100-110 cases

Missouri

- Paul Bailey now Division Director of Plant Industries
- Multiple field staff retirements expected in 2018, 1 on March 1
- Budget – asked for more field and office staff
- 311 dicamba complaints; usually have 80
- Dicamba 24(c)

Nebraska

- 2 retirements, 1 each in February and August
- Hiring freeze
- 4% budget cut across the board
- New director for the Nebraska Dept. of Ag
- 93 dicamba claims, 23 active investigations usually have total of 80

Kansas

- Gary Meyer, Program Manager working from home/sick leave for the most part since end of August
- Staffing shortages – 3 in field, 3 in office field positions will be replaced; all but 1 in office have been hired within the last 7 months
- Governor waiting conformation as the Religious Ambassador
- New governor may not be as agriculture friendly
- 125 dicamba related cases, total 213, 43 counties mainly along the Nebraska border and Northeast includes damage to gardens, tomatoes and pecan orchard

EPA Region 7

- Impacted by hurricanes and fires; back-up for Region 6
- Trying to do cross training, work on building inspectors
- 38 people in Region 7 took advantage of the buyout offer leaving about 470 some people
- Funding at FY17 levels
- New regional administrator – Jim Gulliford

Cannabis

- Iowa - passed a Medicinal Cannabis Act
 - Act provides for the authority to license the producer
- Nebraska – medicinal did not pass
 - Hemp research project at University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 - Omaha tribe in Sioux City looking at medicinal use and hemp as a source of income as casino not working out as well as expected
- Missouri - 2 years ago issued 2 permits for production of oil extracts for medicinal purposes
 - 1 facility producing
 - Regulated by Dept. of Health
- Kansas – no discussion of cannabis
- Resource for pesticides for use on medical/recreational cannabis and industrial hemp – Region 8 Rebecca Perrin

Chlorpyrifos

- 60 day comment period closed March 29
- RED 2022
- Not complete human health assessment
- US Fish and Wildlife and Marine Fisheries

Use of Region 7 Lab

- Provide sampling assistance, particularly for states without a lab
- Nebraska had sample size issues
- Turnaround time
- Project Order must be completed each time sample sent
- Better communication needed
- Requires coordination and prioritization
- Maximize timing for samples – physical and documentary

Drift Checklist

- Ratings not developed
- Missouri and Nebraska sent data
- Includes all drift

Dicamba

- Missouri
 - Proposed Restrictions
 - ✓ Wind speed 10 mph
 - ✓ Time of application 8-5
 - ✓ Certified applicators only
 - ✓ Required training from University of Missouri
 - ✓ End date of application
 - ✓ RUP all dicamba for Ag use at a certain %
 - SLN in place with similar restrictions for general use dicamba
 - Had not considered reciprocity training
- Iowa
 - Deciding how to respond to new label
- Kansas
 - Deciding how to respond to new label

- Nebraska
 - No state imposed restrictions
 - Educate dealers
- Enforcement issues
 - Terms and conditions not clearly defined
 - ✓ Sunrise
 - ✓ Sunset
 - ✓ Auxin specific training
 - ✓ Adjacent
 - Deadline for Relabeling? When is product misbranded
 - EPA learning objectives for dicamba/auxin training?
 - How to enforce vapor drift?
- Enforcement issues were discussed with OPP and OECA