

## **SFIREG Joint Working Committee Meeting**

### **OPP Updates**

**September 21, 2020**

#### **April 14, 2020: EPA provides critical information to the American public about safe disinfectant use**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-provides-critical-information-american-public-about-safe-disinfectant-use>

EPA continued its efforts to provide critical information on surface disinfectant products that can be used to protect the health of all Americans throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. In support of these efforts, EPA now has nearly 400 products that have qualified to be effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. EPA is also continuing to add additional chemicals to its list of commodity inert ingredients. These actions are intended to help address supply chain issues for EPA-registered disinfectants and other pesticides.

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#### **April 24, 2020: EPA extends comment period on draft biological evaluations for carbaryl and methomyl**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-extends-comment-period-draft-biological-evaluations-carbaryl-and-methomyl>

EPA extended the public comment period for 45 days on the draft biological evaluations (BEs) for the insecticides carbaryl and methomyl. EPA held a public webinar on April 16, 2020, to present the draft BEs and to answer clarifying questions from the public. EPA extended the comment period deadline as a result of several stakeholder requests.

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#### **May 1, 2020: EPA Approves Experimental Use Permit to Test Innovative Biopesticide Tool to Better Protect Public Health**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-approves-experimental-use-permit-test-innovative-biopesticide-tool-better-protect>

EPA granted an experimental use permit (EUP) to Oxitec Ltd. to field test the use of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes as a way to reduce mosquito populations to protect public health from mosquito-borne illnesses. Oxitec's carefully developed field tests will be conducted, if approved by state and local authorities, over a two-year period in Monroe County, Florida, beginning in summer 2020, and in Harris County, Texas, beginning in 2021. EPA maintained the right to cancel the EUP at any point during the 24-month period if unforeseen outcomes occur.

During these field tests, Oxitec will release into the environment male mosquitoes genetically modified to carry a protein that will inhibit the survival of their female offspring when they mate with wild female mosquitoes. The male offspring will survive to become fully functional adults with the same genetic modification, providing multi-generational effectiveness that could

ultimately lead to a reduction in *Aedes aegypti* mosquito populations in the release areas. EPA anticipates that this could be an effective tool to combat the spread of certain mosquito-borne diseases like the Zika virus in light of growing resistance to current insecticides.

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**May 5, 2020: EPA Holds Online Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting in May**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-online-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-meeting-may>

EPA's OPP held an online public meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) on May 20-21, 2020. OPP provided an overview of actions it had performed to register and inform the public about products available for use against COVID-19. It sought recommendations from the PPDC about how EPA can continue to improve responses to public health emergencies. OPP provided updates on various initiatives and gathered insight from committee members on how to approach emerging agricultural technologies. The PPDC discussed what workgroups they wanted to undertake.

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**May 12, 2020: EPA Makes it Easier for Consumers to Find Safe, Effective Disinfectant Products to Use Against the Novel Coronavirus**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-makes-it-easier-consumers-find-safe-effective-disinfectant-products-use-against>

EPA released its [List N Tool, a new web-based application \(app\)](#) that allows smart phone users and others to quickly identify disinfectant products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Users can search by use site (e.g., home, business, health care, etc.), surface type (e.g., hard, non-porous surfaces like countertops; porous surfaces like fabrics), contact time (i.e., the time the product needs to be visibly wet), EPA registration number, active ingredient, or product name.

Building on the agency's previously [announced expedited review](#) for EPA-registered disinfectants that do not require review of new efficacy data, the agency announced an expedited review process for other products that would like to qualify for EPA's List N. [EPA's Expedited Review of Pesticide Registration Improvement Act \(PRIA\) Submissions for Products Eligible for Inclusion on List N: Submission Information for Registrants](#) contains important information to submitters on how to submit a product for expedited review. This does not replace the review process of all other submitted antimicrobial products.

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**May 15, 2020: EPA Addresses Supply Chain Issues for Food-Contact Surface Sanitizer Products**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-addresses-supply-chain-issues-food-contact-surface-sanitizer-products>

EPA issued its third temporary modification to [Pesticide Registration Notice 98-10](#) to include food-contact surface sanitizer products containing the active ingredient isopropyl alcohol. Specifically, this temporary amendment expands these flexibilities to manufacturers of food-contact surface sanitizer products containing isopropyl alcohol. Additionally, isopropyl alcohol

was added to the list of active ingredients considered to be commodity chemicals by the temporary amendment. These isopropyl alcohol sanitizer products are not to be applied directly to food. Instead, they are used to sanitize equipment and surfaces used in food manufacturing and food preparation.

In addition, EPA is responding to feedback from the food manufacture and preparation industries that they are experiencing challenges acquiring sanitizers used in production facilities processing low-moisture products like cereal, flour, and industrial baked goods.

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### **May 19, 2020: EPA Opens Comment Period on Pethoxamid Proposed Decision**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-comment-period-pethoxamid-proposed-decision>

EPA requested comments on the Agency's proposed decision to register the new pesticide active ingredient pethoxamid, a broad-spectrum herbicide that inhibits seedling shoot growth. Pethoxamid provides a new active ingredient for the control of economically important grasses and some broadleaf weeds. Pethoxamid can provide a shorter plant-back interval than available alternatives, leading to enhanced crop rotation or cover-crop flexibility. If used in conjunction with or in rotation with other mechanisms of action, pethoxamid could be an element of resistance management programs.

The Agency is proposing to register one technical product and two end-use products to control various types of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in soybean, cotton, corn, non-crop areas, and residential and commercial turf and ornamental sites.

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### **May 21, 2020: EPA Reopens Public Comment Period on Proposed Interim Decisions for Neonicotinoids**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-reopens-public-comment-period-proposed-interim-decisions-neonicotinoids>

EPA reopened the public comment period on the proposed interim decisions for the neonicotinoids acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam. EPA extended the comment period after receiving public comments requesting additional time to review the Neonicotinoids' Proposed Interim Registration Review Decisions and supporting materials citing the quantity and complexity of the Proposed Interim Decisions and supporting documents, as well as addressing time and resource constraints.

EPA first announced availability of the proposed interim decisions for the neonicotinoid pesticides on Jan. 30, 2020. The proposed interim decisions contain new measures to reduce potential ecological risks, particularly to pollinators and aquatic invertebrates, and to protect public health.

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### **May 22, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Animal Repellents Containing New Active Ingredient**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-animal-repellents-containing-new-active-ingredient>

EPA sought comments on a proposal to register two pesticide products containing sheep fat, which is being used as a biochemical active ingredient for the first time. These pesticide products are the manufacturing use product Sheep Fat Technical and the end use product Trico.

As an active ingredient, sheep fat is intended for use as a vertebrate repellent to repel deer, rabbit, moose and elk. It can be used as a foliar spray and perimeter treatment on or around flowers, ornamentals, vineyards, orchards, shrubs, trees, crops, home vegetable plants, and home fruit-bearing trees.

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#### **May 22, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of New Biopesticide and Product**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-biopesticide-and-product>

EPA sought comments on a proposal to register the new active ingredient Ea peptide 91398 and the biopesticide product PHC-91398, which would contain this new active ingredient. Ea peptide 91398 was derived from a naturally occurring bacterium and induces natural plant defenses. This response activates a hypersensitive response in treated plants, which enables resistance to bacterial and fungal infection, as well as suppression of nematode egg production.

The product PHC-91398 is intended for use on a wide range of agricultural crops and residential “home and garden” uses. Product applications include: 1) pre-plant foliar or root dip; 2) foliar application for both greenhouse and field applications using conventional spray, drip or aerial equipment; and 3) seed treatment.

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#### **May 22, 2020: EPA Proposes Action to Protect Soybeans from Major Agricultural Pest**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-action-protect-soybeans-major-agricultural-pest>

EPA requested public comments on a proposal to register Cry14Ab-1, a new plant-incorporated protectant (PIP) product that acts against the soybean cyst nematode. Plant-parasitic nematodes, including the soybean cyst nematode, are among the most problematic agricultural pests, causing major crop losses worldwide. These nematodes mostly inhabit the soil and attack the root system of plants. Cry14Ab-1 has been tested across multiple agriculturally relevant pest species and was found to be active against nematodes.

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#### **June 1, 2020: EPA Issues Advisory on Disinfectants Making False and Misleading COVID-19 Claims**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-issues-advisory-disinfectants-making-false-and-misleading-covid-19-claims>

EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance released a [compliance advisory on products claiming to kill SARS-CoV-2](#), the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The advisory reiterated that disinfectant products that claim to kill viruses must be registered with EPA before they can be sold. Pesticide products cannot legally make claims that they kill a particular pathogen such as SARS-CoV-2 unless EPA has authorized the claim during the registration process. The full text of the advisory can be found [here](#).

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## **June 1, 2020: EPA Releases Temporary Guidance on Respiratory Protection for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers During COVID-19**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-temporary-guidance-respiratory-protection-agricultural-pesticide-handlers>

EPA provided temporary guidance regarding respiratory protection requirements for agricultural pesticide handlers. The guidance aligns with recent OSHA memos on respirators while addressing EPA's responsibilities under FIFRA and the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The temporary guidance outlined approaches to address the unavailability of required respiratory protection and respiratory fit testing that should first be exhausted before considering any alternative options. EPA will assess the continued need for and scope of this temporary guidance on a regular basis.

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## **June 5, 2020: EPA Responds to Ninth Circuit Vacatur of Dicamba Registrations**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-responds-ninth-circuit-vacatur-dicamba-registrations>

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler released the following statement on the Ninth Circuit Vacatur of dicamba registrations: "We are disappointed with the decision. The 2020 growing season is well underway and this creates undue burden for our first conservationists – farmers. EPA has been overwhelmed with letters and calls from farmers nationwide since the Court issued its opinion, and these testimonies cite the devastation of this decision on their crops and the threat to America's food supply. The Court itself noted in this order that it will place a great hardship on America's farmers. This ruling implicates millions of acres of crops, millions of dollars already spent by farmers, and the food and fiber Americans across the country rely on to feed their families."

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## **June 5, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of New Agricultural Fungicide Active Ingredient**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-agricultural-fungicide-active-ingredient>

EPA sought comments on its proposal to register the new active ingredient inpyrfluxam. Inpyrfluxam is a pyrazolecarboxamide fungicide proposed for foliar and seed treatment agricultural uses. The chemical provides protection against Rhizoctonia species causing seed decay, seedling damping-off, and root rot. The uses proposed for inpyrfluxam are: seed treatment of crop group 6 (legume vegetables), crop group 15 (cereal grains), crop subgroup 20A (rapeseed), dry seeded rice, and sugar beet; foliar application to apple, peanut, soybean, and sugar beet; and in-furrow soil application at planting to corn (field, sweet, and pop). The proposed registration includes four products: one technical grade and three end-use products.

EPA reviewed inpyrfluxam jointly with Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), with Mexico as an observing member. U.S. tolerances and Canadian MRLs are being harmonized as part of the joint review process. PMRA has not yet published its proposed decision document.

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## **June 5, 2020: EPA to Hold Virtual Environmental Modeling Public Meeting**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-hold-virtual-environmental-modeling-public-meeting>

On Aug. 5, 2020, EPA virtually held its annual Environmental Modeling Public Meeting (EMPM). The EMPM is a public forum for EPA, pesticide registrants, and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to modeling pesticide fate, transport and exposure for pesticide risk assessments in a regulatory context. This meeting offered a forum for presentations on the Drinking Water Assessment Improvements for Surface Water Exposure.

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## **June 8, 2020: EPA Announces the September 15-18, 2020 FIFRA SAP Public Meeting and Requests Nominations of Ad Hoc Expert Reviewers**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-september-15-18-2020-fifra-sap-public-meeting-and-requests-nominations-ad>

EPA hosted a meeting of the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) on September 15-18, 2020 on activities that could inform human health risk assessment for organophosphate pesticides and reducing animal testing. EPA is considering using in vitro data for 16 organophosphate compounds to potentially reduce reliance on default risk assessment uncertainty factors in favor of more refined data-derived factors. EPA also requested nominations of prospective candidates for service as ad hoc reviewers, to assist the FIFRA SAP for this meeting.

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## **June 11, 2020: EPA Providing Excess PPE for Fighting COVID**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-providing-excess-ppe-fighting-covid>

EPA announced that it is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to transfer an additional 22,000 pieces of excess personal protective equipment (PPE) to emergency and health professionals on the COVID-19 frontlines. The Agency maintains a supply of PPE for mission-critical work such as laboratory work, as well as responding to emergencies, including chemical, oil, radiological and biological incidents. Among the items are protective disposable gloves, eye protection, lab coats and full-body protective coverall suits. EPA will donate excess equipment while still maintaining its emergency response readiness.

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## **June 18, 2020: EPA Releases Guidance on Pesticide Safety Training Requirements During COVID-19**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-guidance-pesticide-safety-training-requirements-during-covid-19>

EPA released guidance regarding the annual pesticide safety training requirements outlined in the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that offers flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The guidance aims to inform agricultural employers and handler employers of flexibilities available under the WPS to allow continued protection for employees and agricultural production.

To read the guidance in full, visit [our webpage](#).

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### **June 22, 2020: EPA Celebrates National Pollinator Week**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-celebrates-national-pollinator-week>

EPA renewed its [MOU between EPA and the Pollinator Partnership](#), as part of its ongoing work to protect pollinator habitats. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler [issued a proclamation](#) for National Pollinator Week on the same day. The MOU outlines each party's role in protecting pollinators such as birds, bats, bees and other insects – all of which play a vital role in providing pollination services to both agricultural and non-agricultural plants. This MOU replaces a similar MOU signed by the OCSPP Pesticide Program Director in 2017, who has since retired. The renewed MOU includes added references to New Approach Methods (NAMs) for reducing animal testing.

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### **June 25, 2020: EPA Hosting Webinars on Assessing Risks to Bees from Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-hosting-webinars-assessing-risks-bees-pesticides>

EPA's OPP hosted a two-part webinar series on July 21st and 28th as part of its series dedicated to pollinator health and habitat. The webinars focused on advancing the science of assessing risks to bees from pesticides. The first webinar, Designing and Conducting Bee Studies, explained the basic elements of the studies EPA uses to assess risks when registering or re-evaluating a pesticide. The second webinar, Assessing Risks to Bees from Pesticides, provided a brief overview of EPA's tiered process for assessing risks to bees.

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### **June 26, 2020: EPA Issues Report Highlighting Actions Taken to Improve the Endangered Species Act Consultation Process for Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-issues-report-highlighting-actions-taken-improve-endangered-species-act-consultation>

EPA, in collaboration with federal partners, met a congressional commitment by [submitting its second report to Congress](#) highlighting the progress achieved to date with creating a more efficient and effective review process regarding pesticide impacts under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

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### **July 1, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Nootkatone, A New Active Ingredient in Insect Control**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-nootkatone-new-active-ingredient-insect-control>

EPA sought public comment on the proposed registration of a new active ingredient called nootkatone, which was discovered and developed by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention and can be used as an insect repellent. The agency’s proposal adds a new active ingredient that can be used to protect people from biting insects and ticks.

Nootkatone is a naturally occurring substance found in minute quantities in Alaskan yellow cedar trees and grapefruit skin. It is responsible for the characteristic smell and taste of grapefruit and is widely used in the fragrance industry to make perfumes and colognes. Nootkatone is considered a biopesticide, or a pesticide derived from nature.

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### **July 2, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Product Containing New Microbial Active Ingredient**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-product-containing-new-microbial-active-ingredient>

EPA sought comments on a proposal to register a pesticide product, Vintec, that contains the new microbial active ingredient *Trichoderma atroviride* strain SC1 (*T. atroviride* SC1). *T. atroviride* SC1 is a naturally occurring fungus that obtains nutrients from dead organic matter and inhabits soil in the vicinity of plant roots. The proposed pesticide product, Vintec, would be applied via sprayers adapted to target pruning and grafting wounds to grapevines and almond trees to control fungal wood and canker diseases.

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### **July 2, 2020: EPA Registers New Nanosilver Active Ingredient as a Materials Preservative**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-registers-new-nanosilver-active-ingredient-materials-preservative>

EPA registered a new active ingredient that helps suppress odor causing bacteria, and algae, fungus, mold and mildew that can cause deterioration or staining in textiles. NSPW Nanosilver is registered solely for use in specified textiles including fabrics, sportswear, footwear, linens, awnings and more. The ingredient, “NSPW Nanosilver,” can be found in the pesticide product POLYGUARD-NSPW MASTER BATCH (Polyguard).

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### **July 7, 2020: EPA takes action to help Americans disinfect indoor spaces efficiently and effectively**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-help-americans-disinfect-indoor-spaces-efficiently-and-effectively>

EPA released guidance outlining what information registrants need to submit in order to expedite the review of requests to add electrostatic sprayer application directions to disinfectant product labels for use against SARS-CoV-2. Electrostatic spraying has drawn increased interest through the public health emergency because of the need to disinfect large indoor spaces (e.g., schools, offices, businesses) or areas with many surfaces.

EPA’s [new guidance](#) covers requests to add electrostatic spraying directions to both new and currently registered disinfectant products—including those on [EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#) —that require review under Pesticide Registration Improvement

Act (PRIA). The guidance builds on EPA's previously announced [expedited review](#) of certain submissions for products intended for use against SARS-CoV-2.

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### **July 7, 2020: Trump EPA Research Studying the Effectiveness of Longer-Lasting Disinfectants**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-research-studying-effectiveness-longer-lasting-disinfectants>

EPA researchers are evaluating a number of commercially available products for potential long-lasting effectiveness against the virus. This research is being conducted at the EPA Office of Research and Development's Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, using surfaces that mimic the high touch points in mass transit trains and stations.

EPA researchers will determine whether antimicrobial products can provide residual disinfection on surfaces over time and how durable the disinfection ability of the product is with normal use, including routine cleaning and natural weathering. EPA is working directly with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), North America's largest transportation network, on evaluating EPA-registered anti-microbial products across New York City Transit to determine their ability to provide effective anti-virus protection over time.

EPA researchers are also evaluating other possible high-efficiency alternative methods to disinfect such as ultraviolet light (UV), ozone, and steam that could be used on public transit systems to keep trains, buses, and facilities clean and safe for passengers. They are also studying promising disinfectant application methods such as electrostatic sprayers or foggers. As part of this effort, EPA has partnered with L.A. Metro, the third largest transit agency in the United States, to evaluate a number of new technologies, including UVC lighting and air filtration systems, to combat the virus that causes COVID-19 on public transit systems.

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### **July 10, 2020: EPA Opens Comment Period on Pyridate Proposed Decision**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-comment-period-pyridate-proposed-decision>

EPA sought comments on the Agency's proposed decision to register one technical product and four end-use products for pyridate, an herbicide that controls various types of broadleaf weeds. Pyridate is proposed for use on weed control related to the growing of vegetables, including cabbage, chickpea (garbanzo bean), collards, field corn, mint and peanuts. The proposed label for pyridate suggests it could be used on difficult-to-control and economically important weeds such as redroot pigweed and Palmer amaranth.

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### **July 15, 2020: EPA Continues Efforts to Reduce Animal Testing, Announces Guidance on Fish Testing**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-continues-efforts-reduce-animal-testing-announces-guidance-fish-testing>

EPA took another step toward implementing [Administrator Andrew Wheeler's directive to reduce animal testing](#) by releasing a new guidance that reduces unnecessary testing on fish. The guidance clarifies the number of treatment concentrations needed for acceptable fish bioconcentration factor (BCF) studies in the pesticide registration process. Under the new guidance, registrants can forego animal testing when there is enough additional information available to support a registration decision on outdoor pesticides. EPA expects this guidance will save an estimated 240 test animals per year as well as EPA, industry and laboratory resources.

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### **July 16, 2020: EPA Announces Grant to Support Safe Pesticide Use Outreach**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-grant-support-safe-pesticide-use-outreach>

EPA announced a grant opportunity for projects that promote safe pesticide use. The recipient will receive an estimated \$1.2 million to conduct public engagement outreach through a 5-year cooperative agreement. The scope of the grant includes projects that support implementation of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and the Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule, as well as community-based projects focused on protecting farmworker communities. The cooperative agreement will include outreach to occupational users of pesticides, people who work where pesticides are used, pesticide educators and trainers, and others affiliated with pesticide occupational use and pesticide safety activities.

Nonprofits, universities and tribal and state governments are eligible to apply. The request for applications is posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and must be submitted by September 16, 2020.

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### **July 16, 2020: EPA Continues Webinar Series Dedicated to Assessing Risks to Bees from Pesticides**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-continues-webinar-series-dedicated-assessing-risks-bees-pesticides>

EPA's OPP hosted a webinar on Aug. 18, 2020, as part of its [series dedicated to pollinator health and habitat](#). The webinar, [Agricultural Stewardship and Best Management Practices to Reduce Pollinator Risk](#), focused on efforts to mitigate risks of pesticides to bees. Furthermore, it provided an overview of industry, state government, and university extension initiatives to engage stakeholders on pollinator protection. EPA will also host a webinar about state managed pollinator protection plans on Sept. 15.

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### **July 16, 2020: EPA Accepting Public Comments on Candidates Under Consideration for Ad Hoc Participation on the FIFRA SAP**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-accepting-public-comments-candidates-under-consideration-ad-hoc-participation-fifra>

EPA sought public comments on the experts under consideration for ad hoc participation in the FIFRA SAP's review of the use of NAMs to derive extrapolation factors, which will take place September 15-18, 2020.

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## **July 20, 2020: EPA and USDA Release Information for Mitigating Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) Outbreak**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-and-usda-release-information-mitigating-rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv2>

EPA, in coordination with the USDA, released a [list of 115 disinfectant products](#) recommended for use related to the outbreak of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Stereotype 2 (RHDV2). This virus, which impacts wild and domestic rabbits, is not a threat to human health or other domestic animals. RHDV2 spreads through direct contact or exposure to excretions or blood from infected rabbits, as well as contaminated food, water and materials, including clothing and shoes.

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## **July 20, 2020: EPA Extends Comment Period for Isothiazolinones Draft Risk Assessments**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-extends-comment-period-isothiazolinones-draft-risk-assessments>

EPA extended the comment period for five draft human health and ecological risk assessments for isothiazolinones. Isothiazolinones are a class of chemicals commonly used as material preservatives in countertops, food packaging, paint, and household cleaning products. The initial closing date for the public comment period was Aug. 13, 2020. EPA is extending the public comment period for an additional 90 days, closing on Nov. 10, 2020.

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## **July 21, 2020: EPA Introduces Faster, More Tech-Friendly Process for Obtaining a Company Number**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-introduces-faster-more-tech-friendly-process-obtaining-company-number>

The EPA streamlined the process for requesting and generating new company numbers for pesticide registrations. Using the Central Data Exchange (CDX), the Agency's electronic reporting site, companies looking to register with EPA's pesticides program will now be able to receive a company number in approximately 24 hours. Previously, this process was accomplished via email and took 3-4 business days.

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## **July 23, 2020: EPA Provides Consumers Additional Options for COVID-19 Disinfectants**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-provides-consumers-additional-options-covid-19-disinfectants>

EPA added 32 new surface disinfectants to [List N](#), the agency's list of products expected to kill SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. These products have already been approved as tuberculocidal. While they have not yet been tested against SARS-CoV-2, they are approved for killing [the pathogen that causes tuberculosis](#) and are expected to kill SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to the label.

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## **July 27, 2020: EPA Releases Temporary Guidance Regarding Certification of Pesticide Applicators During COVID-19**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-temporary-guidance-regarding-certification-pesticide-applicators-during>

EPA released a temporary guidance regarding the certification of pesticide applicators of restricted use pesticides that offers flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency. EPA has determined that certain temporary changes to pesticide applicator certification programs should be preapproved and may be implemented provided that they are not likely to significantly diminish applicator competence or undermine future certification activities and all conditions are met.

So long as such temporary changes are reported to EPA as outlined in the guidance, EPA does not intend to impose sanctions on certification programs that miss reporting deadlines specified in the CPA rule. EPA will instead accept notifications included in the annual reporting, which are due December 31, 2020.

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## **July 28, 2020: FDA to Hold Webinar on Leafy Green Action Plan, Agricultural Water Treatment**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/fda-hold-webinar-leafy-green-action-plan-agricultural-water-treatment>

The FDA held a webinar on the [2020 Leafy Greens STEC Action Plan](#) on July 30, 2020 (STEC refers to Shiga toxin-producing E. coli.). The webinar included discussion of a new EPA-approved protocol for evaluating the efficacy of antimicrobial pesticides against microorganisms in agricultural irrigation water.

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## **July 30, 2020: EPA Approves 13 Products from List N as Effective Against SARS-CoV-2**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-13-products-list-n-effective-against-sars-cov-2>

EPA announced that 13 products on [List N](#), EPA's list of products expected to kill SARS-CoV-2, have completed laboratory testing for use specifically against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The specific products approved include 12 unique products from the manufacturer Lonza and one additional Lysol product from Reckitt Benckiser. The total number of products in this category is now 15. Additionally, EPA continues to add products to [List N](#) that are expected to kill SARS-CoV-2, based on past efficacy testing. There are 469 approved products currently on List N.

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## **July 31, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of New Herbicide to Aid in Resistance Management**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-herbicide-aid-resistance-management>

EPA sought comments regarding registration of a new active ingredient, tiafenacil, a contact herbicide. EPA proposes tiafenacil for pre-plant and pre-emergence burndown use in corn (all types except sweet corn), cotton, soybeans and wheat. Proposed post-emergence uses include directed burndown in grapes, burndown in fallow and non-crop areas, and as a crop desiccant in cotton. There are no residential uses for tiafenacil proposed in this decision.

The database for tiafenacil indicates the chemical is generally low risk to non-target organisms other than plants, so most mitigation measures deal with avoiding contact with non-target plants. No other substantial risk mitigation was deemed necessary for the proposed uses. Tiafenacil is proposed to be registered as one technical product and two end-use products.

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### **August 3, 2020: EPA Holds Virtual Training for Pesticide Applicators in Indian Country**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-virtual-training-pesticide-applicators-indian-country>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs hosted a two-day virtual training to certify participants as private applicators of restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian country under the [EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country \(EPA Plan\)](#). Any person who uses RUPs in an area of Indian country under the [EPA Plan](#) needs a federal certification from EPA. Additionally, some tribes may choose to further restrict or prohibit the use of RUPs in their areas through the implementation of tribal codes, laws, regulations or other applicable requirements. The EPA Plan does not supersede such tribal requirements. Another training is scheduled for Nov. 18-19, 2020.

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### **August 10, 2020: Nootkatone Now Registered by EPA**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/nootkatone-now-registered-epa>

Nootkatone, discovered and developed by the CDC, has been registered by EPA and can now be used to develop new insect repellents and insecticides for protecting people and pets. Studies show that when nootkatone is formulated into insect repellents, they may protect from bites at similar rates as products with other active ingredients already available and can provide up to several hours of protection. Having a new effective ingredient for insecticide available will assist in addressing the growing levels of insecticide-resistance to other products currently in use.

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### **August 13, 2020: EPA Continues Webinar Series Dedicated to Pollinator Protection**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-continues-webinar-series-dedicated-pollinator-protection>

EPA's OPP will host a webinar on Sept. 15, 2020, to conclude its five-part [series dedicated to pollinator health and habitat](#). The webinar, *Engaging Stakeholders: Development and Implementation of Pollinator Protection Plans*, will discuss how managed pollinator protection plans (MP3s) reduce exposure of bees to pesticides through sustainable agriculture and increased stakeholder engagement. The webinar will also address EPA's plan to assess the impact of MP3s while coordinating outreach with stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of MP3 implementation.

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**August 13, 2020: EPA Opens Public Comment Period on Cuprous Iodide Draft Ecological Risk Assessment**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-public-comment-period-cuprous-iodide-draft-ecological-risk-assessment>

EPA is accepting comments on its determination that cuprous iodide, when used in a materials preservative embedded in specific fibers, plastics and films, is not expected to pose a discernable threat to terrestrial and aquatic organisms. This determination is in response to a 2019 lawsuit filed by the Center of Biological Diversity (CBD) alleging that EPA violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA). CBD expressed concern that Cupron Cuprous Iodide Masterbatch could jeopardize threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The comment period closes on September 14, 2020.

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**August 24, 2020: Trump EPA Approves First-Ever Long-Lasting Antiviral Product for Use Against COVID-19**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-approves-first-ever-long-lasting-antiviral-product-use-against-covid-19>

EPA has issued an emergency exemption to the state of Texas permitting it to allow American Airlines and Total Orthopedics Sports & Spine to use a new product, SurfaceWise2, that kills coronavirus like the SARS-CoV-2 virus on surfaces for up to seven days. This product is expected to provide longer-lasting protection in public spaces, increasing consumer confidence in resuming normal air travel and other activities.

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**September 1, 2020: EPA Supports Technology to Benefit America's Farmers, Improve Sustainability**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-supports-technology-benefit-americas-farmers-improve-sustainability>

EPA has proposed a rule that will streamline the regulation of certain National Priority List sites (NPL's) that pose no risks of concern to humans or the environment. This action – which will be available for public comment for 60 days – delivers on a key directive under President Trump's [Executive Order on Modernizing the Regulatory Framework for Agricultural Biotechnology Products](#).

EPA's proposed exemptions for PIPs created through biotechnology seek to facilitate the development of new tools for American farmers to protect their crops and control agricultural pests. By reducing antiquated regulations that restrict access to the market for biotechnology products, science-based innovations to agriculture will become far more accessible to American farmers. These improvements will have the potential to increase America's food supply.

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**September 2, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of New Industrial and Household Product Preservative**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-industrial-and-household-product-preservative>

EPA released the proposed registration of sodium benzoate for a public comment period ending Oct. 2, 2020. This proposed use for this new active ingredient is for in-container control of bacteria, mold and fungi in industrial and household products including soaps, shampoos, inks, adhesives, and other water-based products requiring preservation.

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**September 4, 2020: EPA Seeks Public Comment on Draft Proposal to Improve Pest Resistance for Plant-Incorporated Protectants**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-seeks-public-comment-draft-proposal-improve-pest-resistance-plant-incorporated>

EPA is accepting comments on a draft proposal to improve current insect resistance management (IRM) strategies for pests affecting *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn and cotton plant-incorporated protectants (PIPs). Bt PIPs are pesticidal substances that have been genetically engineered into corn and cotton plants. These modified plants then produce Bt proteins that are harmful to certain insect pests. This draft proposal provides an improved IRM framework that will help farmers prolong the durability of Bt PIPs from pests. The comment period will close on Nov. 7, 2020.

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**September 8, 2020: EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments for Mosquito Control Tool**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-risk-assessments-mosquito-control-tool>

EPA released draft human health and ecological risk assessments for naled – a critical tool for mosquito-borne disease control – for a public comment period ending Nov. 9, 2020. Naled is registered for public health wide-area mosquito control, as well as insect control, at a variety of agricultural sites and food-processing facilities. The draft assessment shows that estimated exposure from aerial application exceed EPA’s level of concern for children ages 1-2 years for up to four hours following spraying. EPA is actively working with mosquito control districts to encourage that they notify residents at least 24 hours prior to spraying so that residents can take protective actions.

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**September 9, 2020: EPA Accepting Comments on Expanded Uses of *Trichoderma asperellum* strain T34 and *B. amyloliquefaciens* PTA-4838**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-accepting-comments-expanded-uses-trichoderma-asperellum-strain-t34-and-b>

EPA is accepting public comments on proposals to expand the uses of two microbial active ingredients: *Trichoderma asperellum* strain T34 and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain PTA-4838 (*B. amyloliquefaciens* PTA-4838). Under the proposed use expansion, *Trichoderma asperellum* strain T34 could be used as a fungicide and bactericide to increase plant defenses against soil-borne fungi and bacteria. Proposed new uses of *B. amyloliquefaciens* PTA-4838 will allow foliar application as well as applications made in residential settings to suppress fungi and promote plant growth.

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## **September 9, 2020: EPA Encourages Schools and Universities to Use EPA-Approved Products and Disinfectants to Keep Students Safe**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-encourages-schools-and-universities-use-epa-approved-products-and-disinfectants>

EPA reminded school districts and state and local officials to remain vigilant when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting school buildings and facilities by using only products found on EPA's List N. EPA is working to combat imposter disinfectant products from being marketed online with potentially dangerous claims of protection against the novel coronavirus. In some cases, there are statements that products will provide protection from COVID-19 for up to 90 days. To date, EPA has approved only one product that has long-lasting effects against COVID-19 and is expeditiously working to review additional products.

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## **September 9, 2020: EPA Proposes Registration of Two Herbicides Containing New Active Ingredient**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-two-herbicides-containing-new-active-ingredient>

EPA is accepting comments on the proposed registration of two products containing *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain ACK55 (*P. fluorescens* ACK55), a new microbial active ingredient to be used as a pre-emergent herbicide. Specifically, EPA is proposing to register a manufacturing-use product and an end-use product containing *P. fluorescens* ACK55 that will suppress the growth of invasive grasses.

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