Research Workshop for Managing Dicamba Off-Target Movement Specialty Crops Focus

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Agenda

- What we think we know from experiences of 2016 and 2017
- What we need to know as we go forward

What we think we know from 2016 and 2017

- **Denial is more than a river in Egypt**
  - We're told that damages were all application errors, but reports from the applicators tell a different story

Comments: Retailers provided extensive comments on this question. They stated that many of their problems occurred in non DT soybean fields that were in the opposite direction of the Xtend fields at the time they made the applications. They cited volatility and vapor drift as their main suspicions for the damages since they were especially careful to choose days to apply when winds were in the opposite direction of the sensitive soybeans. They expressed strongly they had followed the label and put their best applicators on the job and observed symptoms when winds shifted towards the sensitive fields days later, and especially in hot conditions. They also wondered if an inversion event days later caused the product to move from the applied field.

Comments: The retailers felt very much as they were on the front line for handling complaints; when a situation was controversial between farmer neighbors they felt the manufacturers were even more reluctant to get involved. They were disappointed the product reps could not even discuss what the retailers and farmers felt were obvious volatility issues. Some commented that their reps did the best job they could, but that the industry itself has not done enough work to thoroughly understand how to use this product effectively. More than a few comments mentioned their BASF rep was much more responsive than the other company reps.

What we think we know from 2016 and 2017

- Rural Acrimony is rampant
- Neighbor vs neighbor is a growing issue
- Financial Compensation is not likely because determining actual yield loss is difficult
  - Losses can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars
- State regulatory agencies are “swamped”
- Insurance Companies are denying payments
  - “I followed the label, I’ve done nothing wrong”
- Exposure will double in 2018

What we need to know

Not all inclusive, but 8 questions that need your answers

- What truly is the range of volatility?
- Is "atmospheric loading" a threat?
- What can we do to get a residue tolerance?
- How long does dicamba residues last in the plant?
- How does timing of damage affect yield?
  - If there is a residue involved, it is automatically 100%
- What is an adequate "buffer"?
  - We suggested ½ mile to be safer, but is that enough?

Comments: As the chart indicates from ¼ to ½ mile was nearly 60% of the responses we received, with less than ¼ mile getting 25% response.

- The new restrictions do not address volatility…how can we ever improve if there is no recognition "officially" that there is a problem?
- How will we deal with the general public when damages to home gardens and landscapes becomes rampant?

Questions and Comments

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