

WSSA Liaison to EPA-OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)

Draft Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors

Quarter 1, 2017

January 11-13

I visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA on January 11, 12 and 13. During my visit to EPA, I visited with personnel from the Registration Division (RD), the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD), Pesticide Reevaluation Division (PRD), Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD), Environment Fate and Effects Division (EFED) and Field and External Affairs Division (FEAD).

A primary purpose of this visit was to interact with the other liaisons, Wayne Wilcox from APS and Allan Felsot from ESA. During the visit we made plans for EPA interaction with WSSA members, committees and participation at the annual meeting.

The Director of PRD, Yu-Ting Guilaran described how the process was moving from a risk management phase to a decision phase and that there were 5 years left. There are some unresolved issues, for which there would be interim decisions. These include endangered species, endocrine disruptors, and pollinators. She said the agency could use help in determining the balance between optimum droplet size for efficacy and the optimum for drift reduction. How can pesticides be more precisely used?

We discussed some topics for future Herbicide 101 presentations and these included ACC inhibitors, ALS inhibitors (especially SUs), more detail on creation of herbicide tolerant crops (mutagens, transgenic, Crisper), the impact of pesticides on soil health, and soils in organic versus nonorganic production systems. Another topic was what are the interactions that occur between components in a pesticide tank mixture.

EFED was particularly interested in having real information about how a specific pesticide is used to better inform their models. Other topics of interest included BMPs for reducing off-target movement, real pesticide use rates, whether mixtures are becoming the standard practice to assess additivity, and what MOAs can theoretically show synergistic interactions.

BPPD is interested in how Crisper technology will change pest management.

February 6-9

A number of EPA staff attended the WSSA meeting in Tucson. BEAD, EFED, and PRD were all represented. Two EPA staff members made presentations at the symposium on synergism and off-target movement. In addition, EPA staff met with the Resistant Plants Committee, Herbicide Resistance Education Committee, Formulation, Adjuvant, and Application Technology Committee, HRAC, and the USDA during the meeting. One question the EPA is trying to answer is why they are not informed of weed resistance cases that are reported on Ian Heap's web site. EPA is also requesting help in

formulating resistance management plans and remediation plans as part of their proposed resistance management guidelines.

In discussions with the Formulation, Adjuvant, and Application Technology Committee, EPA persons expressed a desire to know more about how pesticides are being applied. This includes the market share of various application technologies.

Other topics that were discussed with EPA staff included whether special application instructions are needed for roadside/noncrop (boomless) treatments. An interesting conversation focused on whether there could be economic incentives to encourage development of new herbicide chemistry and what shape that would take.

March 27-28

I visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA on March 28 and 29. During my visit to EPA, I visited with personnel from the Registration Division (RD), the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD), Pesticide Reevaluation Division (PRD), Environment Fate and Effects Division (EFED) and Field and External Affairs Division (FEAD).

A primary purpose of this visit was to arrange and attend a seminar presented by Greg Kruger for EPA staff on the impact of droplet size on herbicide efficacy. This was the second presentation Greg made at EPA concerning application technology and it was very well attended with many questions. Greg and I met with the divisions mentioned above to further discuss this subject.

During this visit I met with EPA staff from BEAD to make preliminary plans to submit a symposium proposal for the 2018 WSSA meeting.