



Information

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY • COLLEGE PARK, MD 20742 • (301) 405-3913

Check out the Pesticide Education and Assessment Program web site at <http://pesticide.umd.edu>

Planning for Change: Crop Profiles and Transition Strategies

Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 32

Amy E. Brown, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Pesticide Education and Assessment Programs

July 1999

Background

The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) instructs USDA and EPA to obtain pesticide use and usage data on major and minor crops. Of particular importance at this time are use and usage data for the organophosphates, carbamates and possible carcinogens or probable human carcinogens. These classes of pesticides have been identified as top priority at EPA for the tolerance reassessment process. These same pesticides are also vital to the production of many of our crops. Because some of these uses may be canceled, it is important to identify where we stand now, where we need to be in the future and what research efforts are needed to get us there as far as pest management practices are concerned. In order to better understand where future research efforts should lead, it is necessary

first to identify areas of critical need (i.e. those crops or situations where few if any alternative control measures are available to producers). To help USDA and EPA obtain this information, crop profiles are being prepared. Crop profiles are intended to provide the complete production story for a commodity.

Crop profiles

Crop profiles are summaries of pest management methods utilized on an individual crop within a state. They provide information on current pest problems, pest management methods used, crop production data and key references and contacts. They explain how crops are grown and why certain pesticides are important. Crop profiles identify current techniques and strategies actually used to control pests. The

Educating People to Help Themselves

Local Governments • U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State law and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

information contained in crop profiles may be critical for EPA to use in determining whether to retain or cancel certain pesticide registrations.

Every state has been asked to compile crop profiles. Crop profiles developed in Maryland can be found on the Pesticide Education and Assessment Program web site at <http://pest.umd.edu>. As crop profiles are completed in all states, they are made available on the national web site at <http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/opmppiap/subcrp.htm>. The national web site also identifies crop profiles in progress.

Transition strategies

Some cancellations can be expected. If critical pesticide uses can be identified early in the process, research efforts can be directed at identifying or developing new pest management strategies and technologies to serve as alternatives. As EPA reassesses tolerances and considers pesticide cancellations on various crops and commodities, the Agency needs to be kept fully informed about probable producer impacts. EPA will also need to know what new products are being developed to replace the canceled products, as well as the time frame required for transition to new pest management strategies. These concerns are especially strong among growers of minor crops who may have few if any alternatives to the canceled pesticides. Transition strategies are being developed to help reduce potential adverse impacts in the event of cancellations.

The April 8, 1998 memorandum from Vice President Gore emphasized that FQPA should be implemented in a way that would

ensure that affected pesticide users have the time, the technical assistance, and the support they need for transition to new and effective pest management tools. USDA and EPA will be working together to develop strategies that help growers to transition to new pest management methods. A transition strategy is a process to identify critical uses of pesticides (those uses that if canceled, leave growers few if any alternatives for pest control). It pinpoints those areas where the canceled pesticides play a vital role in IPM and resistance management programs. It identifies pest management tools, both chemical and non-chemical, that are expected to become increasingly available in the future.

The transition strategy will also indicate the time needed until a pest management tool will be available on a commercial scale. The transition strategy will help identify where phase-out periods are needed in the event of a pesticide registration cancellation, the time required for that phase-out or transition period to occur, and any interim steps that will be needed to successfully make the transition.

Pipeline information

An important part of the transition strategy is called "pipeline information." It identifies alternative pest management tools being developed at the research level. The tools in development may include resistant crop varieties, release or augmentation of beneficials (parasites and predators), cultural practices, physical or mechanical controls, use of pheromones, etc. The pipeline will also identify pesticides involved in pre-registration activities at EPA including tolerance petitions, tolerance proposals and

acceptances, Section 18 (emergency) registrations, Experimental Use Permits (EUP), and applications for registrations. Transition strategy information will come from many sources including crop profiles, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) data, Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (PIAP) assessments, state reports, commodity group information, Extension Service reports, the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy pipeline database, EPA sources, USDA program information, IR-4 (Minor Use Pesticide Program) projects, IPM research, land grant institutions, commodity or food processors, independent researchers, etc.

In summary, the transition strategy will:

- highlight those pesticide uses and pest management practices that are considered critical to crop production,
- be a key element in developing phase out time frames for when EPA proposes cancellations of critical use pesticides, and
- identify which crop/pest combinations need future research in order to fill the gap created by these cancellations.

This fact sheet was based on an article in Mississippi's Environment Vol. 27 No. 5, issued by Edna Ruth Morgan, Extension Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service.