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Pest Alert

March 31, 2000

**The Pest Alert is now found on the World Wide Web at
www.colostate.edu/programs/pestalet**

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PEST ALERT GOES TO WEB

Yes, the time has come for us to move the Pest Alert to the web. Over the next year we will be making the transition and by January 2001 we'll only be putting the Pest Alert out on the web. As I mentioned in the January issue, there are several reasons for doing this.

Use of the web allows the Pest Alert to be more timely and of immediate use.

It will cost less to produce and thus be free to anyone wishing to access it.

It will allow more use of illustrations and even color, which, at the present time, has not been possible.

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.
Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

In the transition period we will be continuing to put out a hard copy to those subscribers presently on our list. No new subscriptions will be accepted. We will also be putting Pest Alert on the web at <http://www.colostate.edu/programs/pestaalert>.

We realize that there may be a few interested persons who do not have access to the web. We recommend that they contact the local extension office, library, Kinko's or other computer services resource to access the Pest Alert. (Brown)

UPDATE ON REGISTRATIONS IN COLORADO FOR 2000

Two Section 24(c) Special Local Needs (SLN) registrations have been issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section since the beginning of the year. An applicator must have the 24(c) Supplemental Label in their possession to apply SLN products.

CO-000001 - PROWL 3.3 EC as a delayed pre-emergence application for dry bulb onions. A signed Waiver of Liability through the Colorado Onion Association is required.

CO-000002 - BALANCE WDG to reduce maximum application rate and restrict use on coarse soils with low organic matter in CO, expires 3/31/2001.

Several Section 18 Labels Emergency Exemptions have been approved for Colorado. Section 18 of FIFRA authorizes EPA to allow States to use a pesticide for a limited time if EPA determines that emergency conditions exist. The uses are requested for a limited period of time (no longer than 1 year), to address the emergency situation only. Section 18 Labels restricted use pesticides are for retail sale to and use only by certified applicators or person under their direct supervision covered by the Certified Applicators Certification. The label must be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application. A permit is required from the Colorado Department of Agriculture in order to use a Section 18 product. There is no charge for this permit.

- Purogene, Purogene Plus, Anthium AGP (chlorine dioxide) for late blight in potatoes (expires 5/31/2000).
- Checkmite + (coumaphos) for varroa mites and small hive beetle in bee colonies (expires 7/20/2000).
- Gaucho as a seed treatment for sweet corn to control Stewart's Wilt vector, a flea beetle (exp. 12/10/2000).
- Spartan (sulfentrazone) for broadleaf weed control in conservation tilled sunflowers (active 4/1/2000 - 7/15/2000).
- Dual Magnum (s-metolachlor) to control pigweed in spinach (active 3/28/2000 - 8/31/2000).

REVISED RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR ACEPHATE, DISULFOTON, ETHYL PARATHION, FENITROTHION, METHAMIDOPHOS, PHOSMET, PHOSTEBUPIRIM AND TETRACHLORVINPHOS RELEASED

In the February 22 Federal Register, EPA announced that revised risk assessments were available for acephate and methamidophos. EPA released the revised risk assessments for the organophosphate pesticides ethyl parathion and fenitrothion on March 1. On March 10, EPA released the revised risk assessment documents for the organophosphate pesticide disulfoton. EPA released the revised risk assessment documents for the organophosphate pesticide phosmet on March 20. On March 27, EPA released the revised risk assessments for the organophosphate pesticides phostebupirim and tetrachlorvinphos.

Comments on the risk assessments must be submitted to EPA within 60 days of being posted in the Federal Register. Electronic copies of all the assessments can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/op/status.htm>. Comments on these documents are due to EPA on or before April 24, 2000. The documents also can be obtained electronically by contacting Karen Angulo, send a message to angulo.karen@epa.gov or call 703-308-8004.

EPA PROPOSES REVISED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PESTICIDE REREGISTRATION DECISIONS

EPA has published a proposal to revise the current public participation process for the reassessment of the organophosphate pesticides and extend the process to all pesticides going through reregistration and tolerance reassessment. EPA began this public participation initiative as a pilot in July 1998, after consultation with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), as a way to increase "transparency" of regulatory processes and consultation with affected stakeholders. Based on lessons learned during the pilot and further consultation with stakeholders, EPA is now proposing a revised process hoped to further enhance public participation. The process includes six phases with two public comment periods, as well as an expanded public engagement before starting the process. The notice also describes how the process will apply to pesticides that are now in the review process. The comment period on this proposal closes April 14, 2000. The Federal Register notice is available from the Government Printing Office web site: http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

PUBLIC MEETING OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED INERTS DISCLOSURE STAKEHOLDER WORKGROUP

On March 16, EPA published a notice in the Federal Register about the establishment of a Pesticide Product Inert Ingredients Disclosure Stakeholder Workgroup. The Inerts Disclosure Workgroup was established as a workgroup to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee to advise the EPA on ways of making information available to the public on inert ingredients in pesticide products while working within the mandates of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and related Confidential Business Information concerns. The Federal Register notice is available at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a000316c.html.

UNPRECEDENTED EPA ACTION

EPA has decided, after a three plus year fight with American Cyanamid, to NOT register chlorfenapyr (Pirate). This is the first time EPA has denied registration of an important new active ingredient solely because of ecological impacts -- it is a potent avian reproductive toxin.

EPA has completed its review of the pesticide chlorfenapyr (Pirate) for use on cotton. The determination that chlorfenapyr does not meet the requirements for registration prompted American Cyanamid to withdraw their Section 3 registration application. This decision is based on EPA's scientific conclusion that chlorfenapyr is persistent in the environment and causes severe effects on bird reproduction. Furthermore, EPA determined that the environmental risks significantly outweigh the substantial economic benefits. EPA's ecological risk assessment was based on extensive scientific review, including peer review by the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP).

EPA AND INDUSTRY LAUNCH A HOME AND GARDEN PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

The EPA and industry partners have launched a nationwide campaign to encourage consumers to read the information on household product labels. This "Read the Label FIRST!" campaign is part of the Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI), an ongoing voluntary partnership to improve labels and help the public purchase, use and dispose of products more safely and responsibly. The campaign coincides with new, easier-to-read labels on many home pesticides and cleaning products now on store shelves.

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner said, "The Clinton/Gore Administration believes that protecting public health, especially the health of children, works best when citizens are armed with better information to use in their communities and homes. This campaign helps consumers to make informed choices in purchasing products and using them safely."

Based on three years of national consumer research on how people use product labels, companies are voluntarily changing their labels to make them easier to read and understand. EPA and its partners are simplifying label language, and replacing phrases such as "Statement of Practical Treatment" with more user-friendly equivalents, such as "First Aid." With the help of poison control centers and other health professionals, first aid directions on labels are now easier to understand. The new labels also present information in a clearer, more eye-catching way by putting key words and phrases in bulleted and boxed formats.

The CLI began in 1996 as a pilot program designed to encourage pollution prevention, foster consumer choice, and improve understanding of household consumer product labels on home pesticide and cleaning products. CLI participants are the pesticide and cleaning product manufacturers, environmental and consumer groups, federal, state and local government agencies and individual consumers who are interested in labeling issues. The CLI government and industry participants funded research to assess consumers' comprehension, attitudes, behavior, and satisfaction with labeling. They also evaluated alternatives and recommended specific improvements to labels. For more information regarding the Consumer Labeling Initiative, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/labeling/>.

REVISED POLICY ON THE STATISTICAL STANDARD FOR REGULATING SHORT-TERM PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

On March 22, EPA published a notice of availability in the Federal Register for the revised science policy document titled "Choosing a Percentile of Acute Dietary Exposure as a Threshold of Regulatory Concern." EPA will use the policy to regulate potential exposures to

a pesticide resulting from its use on food crops. This paper is a revision of the draft published for comment on April 7, 1999. The paper is available on EPA's web page at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/>.

EPA uses a variety of reliable data sources on food consumption and pesticide residues, together with a probabilistic statistical analysis (often called Monte Carlo) to calculate estimated pesticide exposure. This method of estimating exposure generally does not underestimate potential exposure. EPA's policy is that if it determines, using this protective approach, that 99.9 percent of the population are exposed to a pesticide at levels below the dose determined to pose negligible risk, then acute dietary exposure to the pesticide would generally meet EPA's standard of reasonable certainty of no harm.

This paper explains EPA's rationale for using the 99.9th percentile as a standard for regulating pesticides based on short-term exposures through food, one of the science policy issues identified by the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee as crucial to implementing tolerance reassessment under the Food Quality Protection Act. EPA believes that setting the regulatory standard at the 99.9th percentile of exposure is fully protective for all populations and is supported by the most current scientific information.

TREE CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TOPPING

D.A. Karlovich and associates published an article in the March issue of the Journal of Arboriculture (26 (2):87-89) about tree conditions associated with topping in Southern Illinois communities. Topping is defined as 'the drastic removal of large branches with little regard or location of the pruning cut'. Tree problems associated with topping include:

1. Disrupted root crown balance
2. Increased susceptibility to pathogens
3. Decline in tree health
4. Formation of hazardous defects

In this article the authors reported:

1. Topped trees were 192% more likely to be classified in a poor condition than trees not subjected to topping.
2. The occurrence of dead branches was 40% more likely to occur in topped trees.
3. Junipers virginiana was more than 5 times more likely to contain dead branches in topped trees than in trees that had not been topped.
4. There was a 77% increase in insects, disease and parasites in topped vs non-topped trees
5. Topped trees had a 143% greater likelihood to have large cavities compared with trees, which had not been topped.

Summarized by Curt Swift, Tri-River Cooperative Extension, Grand Junction.

WHEAT VIRUSES BEGIN TO SHOW

Last week the CSU Clinic received samples that had wheat streak mosaic (WSMV) and/or High Plains disease (HPD) virus symptoms. With the late fall and mild winter we had expect to see virus problems this spring. Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) could also be a problem. Reports from Kansas already point out that they are seeing small grain virus diseases early.

Wheat streak mosaic usually is seen along the edges of the fields closest to and downwind from volunteer wheat and/or downwind from dryland cornfields. Also look out for BYDV symptoms as small, circular, off-color patches in fields. BYDV patches occur as three to six feet large areas that are slightly stunted and yellowed. Density of the patches will vary from field to field dependent on time of infection, cultivars and prevalence of the vectors last fall.

Close examination sometimes revealed yellow or purple discoloration of a few leaf tips, but symptoms are generally faint. Sometimes the discoloration will show most at the tip and then along the leaf blade edge giving a chevron effect. Symptoms, again, will vary in color (yellow to purple) and intensity of the color dependent on time of infection, temperature and cultivar.

In Kansas the KSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory used ELISA tests to confirm that barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV), strain PAV was the principal virus present. Positive samples for BYDV were received in the Kansas clinic from Greenwood County and the Sandyland experiment field in Stafford County. Kansas Department of Agriculture staff found BYDV in Marshall, Pottawotamie, and Wabaunsee counties. They estimated that 15-25% of fields in that area showed BYDV symptoms. BYDV symptoms were also reported in Saline County.

Wheat disease development on the Colorado High Plains usually follows that in Kansas by about 2 to 3 weeks. Disease occurrence in Kansas especially the western part is a good indication of what to expect in Colorado. Early scouting of fields may give some growers and opportunity to develop alternative plans if wheat viruses are going to be a problem this coming season. (Brown)

AVAILABILITY OF DIAZINON

In past years, comments have been made about the availability of Diazinon for over-the-counter homeowner use. Gene Nelson, Extension Entomologist (Grand Junction) has been tracking down the specifics on these rumors. After speaking with several individuals with EPA, he has discovered the following:

Status of Diazinon use by Commercial and Backyard Applicators (March, 2000)

Information from EPA regarding the *restricted use* status of the insecticide Diazinon is as follows:

Homeowner (backyard) use:

Diazinon formulations and uses that have been available during recent years will continue to be sold *over the counter* with no planned changes by the EPA. No applicator certification is required.

Commercial use:

Diazinon formulations most often used in production agriculture will be or have been placed in the *restricted use* category and will be available only to certified commercial or private applicators. Typically these formulations include 50W, AG500, 14G, 7E, 4EC and 50WSB. (Curt Swift, Tri-river Cooperative Extension, Grand Junction)

URBAN SOIL CONFERENCE IN JUNE

A national conference, The Ecology of Urban Soils: Designing and Managing Soils for the Living Landscape will be held June 11-13, 2000, in St. Paul, MN. This conference is for anyone working with the planning, design, construction and/or maintenance of urban infrastructure and outdoor areas, including engineers, architects, designers, contractors, developers, builders, city planners, arborists, foresters, consultants, scientists, and educators. CEU's are available. Conference information (including speaker abstracts) can be found on the APSnet at www.scisoc.org/opae/shortcourse or contact Cindy Ash at APS headquarters for a registration brochure and further information. Cindy's e-mail address is, cash@scisoc.org, her phone is 651-454-7250. (Brown)

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: TAKING THE RISK

Lots of workshops of all sorts are coming up. Some relate to controversy around genetically enhanced plants, pesticides and other "risk" decision areas. Such a workshop on risk communication for scientists, communicators, and administrators is being held in ORLANDO, MAY 10-11, 2000.

Early Registration date: April 5, 2000

The description off the web read " Genetically modified organisms, food safety, waste management. Agricultural research institutions take risks in researching areas that touch the living standards, wallets and sensibilities of everyone.

Institutions need workable and effective communications strategies for dealing with these issues to head off a crisis of public confidence. There's no time to waste. The answer lies in building a team within an institution of those most affected by this issue: researchers, communicators and administrators.

"Communicating Science: Taking the Risk" is workshop scheduled in Orlando, May 10-11 for state teams of communicators, research administrators and scientists to help them successfully take the risk of communicating science.

The conference, to be held in the Orange County Conference Center, 9800 International Drive, will begin at 8 a.m., May 10, and conclude at noon, May 11, before the opening of the National Agricultural Biotechnology Council annual meeting that afternoon in a nearby hotel.

The workshop is sponsored by Agricultural Communicators in Education and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Speakers will cover risk communication processes and models, public perception, the role of information and education, and successful communication strategies. Panelists will wrestle with questions such as:

How do institutions sustain their credibility and the public's trust?
How do we protect academic freedom in the face of strong public views?
What do communicators need to know and how do they handle gate keeping?
What internal communication processes need to be in place?
Who are the potential stakeholders as new technology is applied and discovered?
What do the media expect from institutions?
How well are the media doing in reporting risk-related issues?

Speakers include Douglas Powell, author of "Mad Cows and Mother's Milk," University of Guelph; Kathy Rowen, risk communication expert, Purdue University; Caron Chess, Center for Environmental Communication, Rutgers University; and Peter Day, Center for Agricultural Biotechnology, Rutgers University.

But it won't all be listening to speakers and panelists. Facilitated workshop sessions will help participants learn how to apply risk communication concepts by developing effective communication plans for their institutions. Whether attending alone or with a team of their colleagues, participants will have opportunities to work with others as they learn to apply theory to practical situations.

The workshop registration fee is \$125 before April 5, or \$150 after that date. Register through ACE headquarters at <http://www.aceweb.org/superworkshop2000/superworkshop.html>. The fee covers the program, breaks, and May 10 luncheon. No one-day or partial registrations are available.

Economical lodging at \$50 per night is available at the Quality Inn, 9000 International Drive, Orlando, adjacent to the Conference Center. Reserve a room by April 9 by calling (407) 996-8585. A block of rooms is being held under the name "ACE Superworkshop on Communicating Science."

Undoubtedly there is potential for problems from inappropriate use of genetically modified plants. We saw this last year on the Colorado High Plains with the resurgence of Goss's wilt in BT corn. But that was not because of the technology, but rather poor decision making on corn cultivar selection in which the BT was incorporated.

Even though U.S. agriculture provides the cheapest and safest food supply in the world we continue to be the whipping boy for many environmental advocate groups and media critics' modern agriculture. Yesterday it was apple juice and Alar; today it is genetically enhanced plants. Only the names have changed, it's the same players.

Proper development and management of genetically enhanced crops have great potential to benefit society and the world at large. Without such progress we will eventually be cutting down the rest of the tropical forests, moving back on to the fragile grasslands and allowing millions of children in lesser developed countries to suffer malnutrition and even death.

Genetically enhanced crops are just like any other tactic used in IPM. They are not a “silver bullet”, but rather promise to be essential components in productive and more environmentally benign agriculture. When managed carefully and in the appropriate manner they have great potential.

In an ideal world, policy and decision making would be made on scientific merit and not as it has in the past on “public perception” and political pressure. But this is not an ideal world. I encourage those of you that are in frequent contact with the public and the media to try and participate in this workshop. (Brown).

POLICY PAPER ON ROLE OF USE-RELATED INFORMATION PUBLISHED

On July 14, 1999, EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing the availability of a draft document for public comment-The Role of Use-Related Information in Pesticide Risk Assessment and Risk Management. This paper is being released for a 60-day public comment period, as part of a process developed in conjunction with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) to ensure that EPA's policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation. The paper announced in this notice summarizes the types of use-related information used by EPA in risk assessment and risk management, where the data come from, and how the Agency employs these data.

The Federal Register notice includes questions on which EPA is particularly seeking comment. The paper is available through the OPP Docket and on the Internet at: www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/.

Comments can be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically as described in the Federal Register notices. The Federal Register notice is available electronically at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr. (McDonald)

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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

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