

Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2008

Guyer Conference Room, Geagley Laboratory

Present: Russell Ives, Gary King, Bob Pigg, Carolyn Randall, Ken Rauscher, Ken Rosenman, Brian Rowe, Martha Stanbury, Abby Swartz, Brian Verhougstraete, Roger Wabeke, Philip Korson

MSUE Pesticide Education Update

Carolyn reviewed her written report with the committee. The Core Manual Supplements have been completed.

There was discussion on possible reasons for poor turnout at core trainings including some held at the request of a commodity association. There are also problems with people registering at the last minute which makes it hard to tell if a session should be canceled. Brian Rowe said the process is still relatively new and that we're still working out issues with associations. One suggestion was to make the associations guarantee a certain amount of money before additional trainings were scheduled.

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Report

Ken Rauscher said that budgets are tough. PPPM is going through business process reviews. Division management is looking into fee increases. There may be cuts in some areas.

MDA was awarded a USDA three year Rapid Response grant. As part of this grant program, the department plans to hire a toxicologist who will work from the Emergency Management Unit. MDA is considering plans to add a food specialist, imported food specialist, and an epidemiologist. PPPM will also hire a feed security specialists as a part of this team.

Dr. Rosenman made a suggestion that MDA consider housing the epidemiologist in a team setting coordinating with MDCH and/or MSU.

Ken distributed an updated map of the EAB quarantine. The Lower Peninsula is uniformly regulated as part of the quarantine level II. This allows for transfer of firewood between Lower Peninsula counties. At this time eradication of EAB is not feasible. Current strategies are based on slowing the spread and buying time for effective biocontrol agents to be developed and deployed.

Gypsy moths populations are building again due to more favorable conditions. Dry springs have inhibited a fungus that has played a major role in gypsy moth control. Ken said we can expect to see some defoliation in 2009. The department is working with counties on treatment programs using *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Brian Rowe spoke about issues with aerial applications of Headline and Quilt—active ingredients asoxystrobin and pyraclostrobin. These products are being applied to corn. There have been problems with drift linked to the short application window and the large corn acreage. MDA had nine complaints concerning aerial applications this year, all related to drift. Asoxystrobin is phytotoxic to Macintosh apples and one of the complaints involved drift onto apples. MDA did some extensive sampling of the apples as there is no tolerance for asoxystrobin on apples. The product could not be detected once the apples were processed, washed, and waxed. The committee discussed ways to avoid similar problems in the future and problems with identifying particular aerial applicators. Brian said that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website could be useful.

There were two other significant aerial complaints of drift, one onto an individual and the second onto foraged hay. The investigations are continuing. It was suggested that the Department of Community Health be utilized to get medical records of the individual in the human health complaint.

Pesticide Surveillance Update

Abby Swartz reviewed the Michigan Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance Project Quarterly Report, July – September 2008. She noted that in her opinion health problems caused by working with bleach were as common as those from quaternary ammonium (QA) compounds. She reviewed how pesticide illness and injury reports are handled and suggested that she could separate anti-microbial cases from others to look at the most common route of exposure, e.g., inhalation vs. dermal.

Brian Rowe said that bleach is not an issue with AAPCO (Association of American Pesticide Control Officials). Bleach is managed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Roger Wabeke asked if there was any kind of trend in rates or severity of illnesses and injury due to exposure to antimicrobials. He also said that current pesticide labels are inadequate. They are too small and do not emphasize dangers properly.

Presentation on Cholinesterase Testing

Dr. Ken Rosenman gave a presentation on cholinesterase testing which is used to determine pesticide exposure. Law requires mandatory reporting of results to public health officials. Occupational data from Michigan goes to Abby Swartz. He said that almost half of the recent cholinesterase tests run were a result of pesticide exposure. He said that as the use of cholinesterase inhibitors such as organophosphates and carbamates has dropped, so have the number of tests and the number of tests showing an effect. NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) helps fund the cholinesterase reporting program.

Quaternary Ammonium Compounds Misuse

The issues with quaternary ammonium (QA) products are: chronic use resulting in sensitization, misuse and off-label use, and acute risks such as those caused by foggers and aerosolizing QAs. The use of these products was initially limited to cold

sterilization of surgical instruments. It has expanded greatly. The use of foggers containing these products has caused some severe problems. Such use can sensitize people leading to possible health problems.

Roger Wabeke asked several questions of the committee. He asked how regulators could reach aberrant applicators of QA products. He said there are now three houses in Michigan that cannot be occupied due to QA misuse. He also asked what the committee can do in terms of improving the labeling of QA products and if the PAC can send a letter to someone expressing our concerns with these products.

Brian Verhougstraete discussed the results of his research into Michigan and EPA registered products containing QA.

Gary King suggested that the committee make a recommendation to the director who could present it to the Ag Commission. The Commission would be the appropriate group to address such a letter. Bob Pigg will draft a letter and send it to the committee for review prior to forwarding it to the MDA director and possibly the MDCH director.

Russell Ives asked if we need to find out how many QA are labeled for aerosols. Dr. Rosenman said the label needs to contain a warning that chronic use of QAs can cause asthma. Brian Rowe and Brian Verhougstraete will bring up these issues at the next pre-SIFIREG meeting (meeting with state and EPA officials).

Enforcement Update

Gary King updated the committee on MDA pesticide enforcement activities. He told the PAC that he is seeing an increase in companies appealing fines and penalties. He is also seeing an increase in companies going through the full regulatory process of three letters and a referral to the state collection agency. There has also been an increase in the number of people who want to make installment payments on fines and penalties.

PAC Meetings – 2009

The following dates are listed for the 2009 PAC meetings. These meetings will be at the Guyer Conference Room, Geagley Laboratory, 1615 S. Harrison, East Lansing. The meetings are scheduled to start at 9:30 am. The dates are: January 16, April 17, July 17, October 16, and December 18, 2009.

Meeting adjourned.