

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

### **Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors**

#### **Quarter 3, 2016**

##### **August 3-5**

I visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA on August 3 and also participated in a planning meeting for herbicide resistance listening sessions being organized by the WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education Committee on August 4. During my visit to EPA, I visited with personnel from the Registration Division (RD) and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD).

My visits with the EPA staff included discussions of a potential field tour for them, planning for an application technologies seminar by Greg Kruger, and the EPA's desire to arrange an agricultural equipment seminar for them. Given the events of the summer with illegal dicamba use in some parts of the country, I asked how WSSA could help with the situation. Another topic discussed was progress on issues concerning assessment of herbicide synergism. There was interest in the EPA in learning more about reported cases of evolved resistance to dicamba. They were also interested in learning about how widely tank-mix compatibility tests (jar tests) were being conducted and who was doing them.

I spent August 4 in a meeting for planning the listening sessions. Besides the WSSA members, both on the Herbicide Resistance Education Committee and those who had agreed to help coordinate meetings at various locations around the country, there were representatives from the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, USDA APHIS, EPA BEAD, the United Soybean Board, and the facilitators engaged for the meetings present. We made significant progress determining the objectives and structure for the meetings.

##### **September 20-22**

I visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA on September 20-22 and visited with personnel from the Registration Division (RD) and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD).

A major meeting I attend was a discussion of issues surrounding illegal dicamba use and how to avoid these issues in the future. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from RD, BEAD, EFED [Environmental Fate and Effects Division], and the EPA OPP Director, Mr. Jack Housenger, Jason Norsworthy, Tom Barber, Kevin Bradley, Larry Steckel, and Stanley Culpepper, EPA regional staff, Jill Schroeder from USDA OPMP, and representatives from the Missouri and Arkansas departments of agriculture. As Mr. Housenger said, "the Agency wants to get this right in the face of the off-target injury issues and illegal dicamba applications this summer". After EPA staff members reviewed the current proposal on dicamba registration on tolerant cotton and soybean, the WSSA members discussed their experience with dicamba related to off-target injury (both drift and volatility), weed control benefits, resistance, and suggestions for what could be effective BMPs and mitigations measures. They also discussed their estimates of the importance and adoption of the dicamba tolerant crops and dicamba usage.

A second very significant meeting I attended during this visit was between representatives from Syngenta and EPA staff, particularly staff from EFED, to discuss Syngenta's concern with certain aspects of the preliminary ecological risk assessment for the triazines (atrazine, simazine and propazine). I was invited to participate in this meeting by Syngenta, which was necessary in case confidential business information might be presented (which it was).