

**WSSA Liaison to EPA-OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)
Report to WSSA
Quarter 3, 2018**

Submitted by: Greg Kreuger

July 30 – August 3 (Nebraska/Iowa Tour)

EPA Tour Schedule

Day 1 – 1:30 – arrival

2:45 – 5:00: Visit Dicamba Related Field Plots near Roscoe, NE

At this stop, we will see a large scale drift study set up to evaluate dicamba movement from physical particle drift and volatility. The stop will also highlight how common tank-contamination is as well as one example of an accident that resulted in “dicamba-like” symptomology. We will meet with Mark Nelson (Simplot Agronomist) to walk through applications and what has happened this year at that site and locally.

5:00 – 6:00: Check into Quality Inn

6:00: Dinner at the (Kruger home) with Kruger Lab

Day 2 – Travel from North Platte, NE – Stay in Grand Island – Tuesday, July 31

8:00 – 11:00: Visit the West Central Research and Extension Center

Tour the Pesticide Application Technology Laboratory – We will spend the time talking about pesticide application technology research, drift research, and if time allowing we may even take a flight.

11:00 – 11:30: Travel to Gothenburg

11:30 – 1:00: Lunch

1:00 – 3:00: Visit the Monsanto Water Utilization Learning Center

At this stop, we will visit one of Monsanto’s Learning Centers. The center is designed to provide pragmatic and practical scenarios for crop production in the High Plains. Our plan at this stop is to view the North Central Weed Science Society’s Annual Weed Judging Contest plots which include Herbicide Mode-of-Action and Farm Problem Identification plots. We will be hosted by the Learning Center Director Dr. Brian Olson (former Weed Scientist with Kansas State University).

3:00 – 6:30: Travel to across south-central Nebraska

We will travel along the southern corridor of Nebraska with a sightseeing opportunity to view the crop production in that region of Nebraska. We will stop at Nebraskaland Aviation where owner Tye Marquardt will give his perspective on crop protection from a retail business standpoint. We will have the chance to see an active mixing loading facility and some application equipment (if they are not active in the field). The operation includes both ground and aerial equipment.

6:30 – 7:30: Check in Grand Island

7:30: Dinner

Day 3 – Travel from Grand Island, NE – Stay in Omaha – August 1

7:30 – 9:30: Travel to Lincoln

9:30 – 11:30: Open Stakeholder Meeting – East Campus Union

This will be an announced open stakeholder meeting for anyone in the public wishing to attend. We plan to direct the conversation towards dicamba, then atrazine and then on to any other topics that may be of interest as time permits

11:30 – 1:00: Lunch with UNL Representatives

This will be a quick lunch following the Open Stakeholder Meeting. A few of the senior administrators at UNL will join. They will be able to provide their perspective on the crop protection industry and how off-target movement of dicamba has changed things within UNL.

1:00 – 2:00: Travel to Springfield Soaring Wings Vineyard

2:00 – 5:00: Session at Soaring Wings Vineyard

Session with State Regulators (Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri)

For this part of the tour, there will be an overview of the winery with a chance to ask questions related to pest management, weed control and drift. Then we will shift the conversation to the state regulatory delegates in attendance from the four state region to discuss regulatory challenges, monitoring and reporting and other topics related to dicamba, atrazine and other herbicides of interest.

5:00 – 5:30: Travel to Omaha and Check in

5:30 – 7:30: Dinner with State Regulators

This will be an opportunity to continue the conversations from the winery over dinner. Darrick Steen from the Missouri Corn Growers Association will help facilitate the discussion.

Day 4 – Travel to Iowa Farms; Stay in Omaha – August 2

8:00 am – Depart hotel for Brent Lorimor Farm

9:00-11 am – Lorimor Farm “Walk-About”

Equipment Demonstrations & Displays

- o Tractor, sprayer, combine, drone, crop scouts, equipment dealer, field mapping demonstration

12:30-2 pm – Lunch

2:30-4 p.m. – Mike Busing Farm “Walk-About”

Equipment Demonstrations & Displays

- o Tractor with GPS, RoGater self-propelled sprayer, tender truck, crop protection compound warehouse (packaging and handing discussion)

4:15 pm – Arrive Harrison County Herbicide Resistance Management Plot

Introductions by Larry Buss, Harrison County farmer; discussion & observations by weed resistance team

5:30 pm – Depart Weed Resistance Management Plot

6:30 pm – Arrive back in Omaha

7:30 pm – Dinner and Debriefing with EPA Staff with Rick Robinson, Greg Kruger and others that were in attendance over the course of the week.

Day 5 – Travel home (depart Omaha airport)

September 27th

On September 27th, I worked with OPP to deliver the second webinar in a three part series focused on spray drift management and pesticide applications. I invited in Brad Fritz with the USDA:ARS in College Station, TX to give a webinar sponsored by the US EPA OPP entitled “Best Practices for Aerial Application”. We had 296 attendees in the second webinar.