

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 2 2012
June 22, 2012

Second quarter activities: I spent time throughout the quarter on planning activities for the Herbicide Resistance Management Summit that was held May 10 in Washington <http://nas-sites.org/hr-weeds-summit/>. I also participated on the Science Policy Committee conference call May 2 organized by Dr. Lee Van Wychen and scheduled a couple of calls with Dan Kenny (Herbicide Branch Chief) to discuss issues between on-site visits to EPA.

April 17-19, 2012: I spent three days at the Office of Pesticide Programs. The primary goal for the week was to attend a brown bag (lunch time) seminar presented by Dr. Gene Reagan, SME representing the Entomological Society of America on Wednesday April 18. The topic of the seminar was ‘Selected Entomological Perspectives Toward Resistance Management’. The seminar and questions lasted about one hour and 25 people from OPP attended the seminar. In addition, they set up a conference call attended by representatives of PMRA of Canada. Dr. Reagan provided an overview of Integrated Pest (Insect) Management and Integrated Insect Resistance Management and discussed the similarities and strategies important to effective and economical insect management. He stressed the need to base management decisions on understanding the ecology of the agroecosystem and the insects associated with the system – both pest and beneficial species. He presented data from sugarcane production systems as example cases and finished with a discussion of concerns for the sustainability of insect management.

In addition to the seminar, Gene and I attended discussions about pest resistance management (including attending the resistance workgroup meeting) and sustainability programs at EPA (Mike McDavit and colleagues). I also visited with Dan Kenny and Skee Jones as well as others in the herbicide branch again about topics we could discuss in a round table session. We decided to begin a series of discussions during my next visit; our first topic will be confusing terminology related to herbicide application timings and methods.

May 9-10, 2012: I visited EPA/OPP on May 9 and met with Dr. Getsinger (Aquatics SME), Dan Kenny (Herbicide Branch Chief) and Don Stubbs (retired Associate Director of Registration Division). A HR Summit planning committee meeting was held the afternoon of May 9 and I participated in the HR summit on May 10. EPA was well represented by staff from several divisions at the HR summit.

June 11-15, 2012: I spent three days at the Office of Pesticide Programs. I attended the Resistance Management workgroup meeting, had discussions with Bill Chism (EPA/BEAD) and Harold Coble (USDA/OPMP) about the outcomes and next steps after an interagency meeting on pesticide resistance issues raised at the Herbicide Resistance Management Summit, attended a meeting related to NPDES, had discussions with Dan Kenny, Product Managers and reviewers in the Herbicide Branch, and spent considerable time listening to the presentations made during the “Meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP) to Consider and Review Problem Formulation for the Reassessment of Ecological Effects from the Use of Atrazine” (OPP docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0230; June 12-14). The SAP was charged with providing recommendations to EPA on three topics: Evaluation of the Data on Amphibians, The Method for Determining the Atrazine Level of Concern for Aquatic Plant Communities (Concentration Equivalent Level of Concern = CE-LOC), and Method for Comparing Monitoring Data to the Aquatic Plant Community LOC for Atrazine. EPA scientists made presentations to describe changes in their modeling approaches, methods used to develop a proposed CE-LOC of 4 to 7 µg/L for assessing potential effects of atrazine on the aquatic plant community, and development and application of bias factors to compare the CE-LOC to monitoring data from field locations. EPA presentations were followed by public comments by a number of groups including ‘save the frogs coalition’ and representatives of Crop Life and the Corn Growers associations as well as scientific presentations by representatives from Syngenta Crop Protection. Interested individuals now have the

opportunity to listen to the SAP meeting through internet connection. The final report and recommendations of the SAP will be posted as a federal register notice later in the year.

Third quarter plans: I have not made plans for travel at this point. Dr. Mark VanGessel has offered to host a one-day field tour in Maryland and Delaware for EPA staff on herbicide resistance issues. I will be contacting EPA to provide information about the proposed tour and help coordinate discussion. Details will be forthcoming.

NOTE: Dr. Gene Reagan, ESA-SME, suffered a serious stroke on May 31. As of this posting, he has moved from the critical care unit to a rehabilitation facility and is facing many months of recovery. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
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