OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University
http://pested.okstate.edu

September, 2026 **CHEM**

EPA RELEASES GLYPHOSATE HUMAN HEALTH OPEN LITERATURE SEARCH DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released for public comment the results of a comprehensive open literature search to inform a forthcoming glyphosate human health risk assessment document.

As part of its pesticide reevaluation process, called registration review, EPA is reevaluating glyphosate to ensure that it continues to meet the statutory standard for registration as scientific data evolves. Because of the large and growing body of publicly available research, EPA routinely conducts open literature searches to identify, screen, assess, and incorporate relevant peer-reviewed studies. The agency also reviews open literature submitted during public comment periods.

This document describes the systematic review procedure and presents a comprehensive list of the studies EPA has identified, including the most recent search, which captures publications since EPA's last open literature review in 2017. EPA will use additional, relevant studies to inform the upcoming human health risk assessment which includes potential dietary risks associated with residues in food and water. The risk assessment is scheduled for completion in late 2026, which EPA will then release for public comment.

Because EPA relies on gold-standard science, the agency asks that commenters provide the complete study and its underlying data, or clear information on how to obtain them, so each study can be evaluated for quality, reproducibility, and other factors. When submitting a study, please include the full citation — author(s), date of publication, journal title, and article title.

This comment period is focused specifically on identifying peer-reviewed, gold-standard studies EPA may consider moving forward. When EPA releases the updated human health risk assessment, the public will have a further opportunity to comment on the agency's evaluation of the science and its conclusions. At this time, EPA encourages stakeholders to provide specific studies beyond those identified in the summary document for potential consideration.

The open literature review is available for a 30-day public comment period in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361. Comments must be submitted at regulations.gov by September 24, 2026. (EPA, August 25, 2026)

https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-glyphosate-human-health-open-literature-search-document-public-feedback

CORTEVA SETTLES FTC CROP LOYALTY CASE

Corteva, Inc. has reached a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission and 12 states in a lawsuit alleging the company paid distributors to block competitors from selling less expensive generic pesticide products to farmers.

The FTC and attorneys general in California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin filed a class-action lawsuit Sept. 29, 2022, also leveling the allegations at Syngenta Crop Protection.

Corteva this week filed a motion to stay the case in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, telling the court it was set to resolve the case.

"The parties to this litigation have been engaged in extensive, good-faith settlement negotiations over a period of several months," Corteva's legal counsel said in a declaration with the court.

"As a result of these negotiations, the parties have reached agreement in principle on the material terms of a proposed consent decree that would resolve the claims in this action."

A proposed consent decree is expected to be filed by Sept. 25, 2026, according to court documents. A hearing on several court motions in the case is slated for July 30, 2026.

In June 2026, Corteva also settled a similar lawsuit filed by a group of farmers in the same court.

The ongoing lawsuit alleges that crop inputs distributors only get paid if they limit business with competing manufacturers. Such arrangements, the lawsuit said, are "cutting off" competition and allowing the companies to "inflate their prices and force American farmers to spend millions of dollars more for their products."

When contacted by DTN, a spokesperson for Corteva offered the following statement: "We're pleased to reach a resolution in this matter, pending court approval, and continue to focus on our business, our customers and our work: delivering groundbreaking innovation and agronomic support to retailers and farmers around the world."

DTN also reached out to Syngenta for comment.

Syngenta and Corteva are two of the largest pesticide manufacturers operating in the United States. Syngenta, based in Switzerland, is a subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned company. Corteva, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the company formed as part of a merger between DuPont and Dow Chemical Co.

The complaint alleges Syngenta and Corteva take "illegal" steps to stop generic pesticides from eating into their profits. The loyalty programs include making payments to distributors if the distributors keep their purchases of competing generic pesticides beneath a certain threshold.

When a company creates a new pesticide, the FTC said, it can patent the invention and prevent others from selling the pesticide for 20 years.

"Ordinarily, when the patent expires, generic versions of the product enter the market to compete with the original brand-name version," the FTC said in its original complaint.

"The arrival of generics pushes prices down. Instead of one company wielding a monopoly over a new product, many manufacturers can compete for farmers' business."

The complaint targets six crop-protection active ingredients.

It claims that Syngenta has monopoly and market power in the United States with respect to azoxystrobin, a fungicide; and mesotrione and metolachlor, both herbicides.

In addition, the complaint alleges Corteva has monopoly and market power in the United States on the herbicide rimsulfuron and the insecticide and nematicide oxamyl. Corteva also has market power with respect to the herbicide acetochlor.

The complaint also alleges the companies violated state-competition and consumer protection laws in California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin. (ProgressiveFarmer, July 30, 2026) https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2026/07/30/corteva-resolves-ftc-case-alleging

FAA CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL DRONE SPRAYING WITH RECORD FINE

The Federal Aviation Administration is sending a clear message to farmers using spray drones: follow the rules or face steep consequences. The agency recently proposed a record-breaking $289,700 civil penalty against Gorge Drones of Stevenson, Washington, for operating without proper certification.

The company allegedly used a drone to dispense fertilizer on 15 separate occasions between March and April 2025 without holding an agricultural aircraft operator certificate. The FAA also claims the drone wasn't registered and lacked an airworthiness certificate.

This proposed fine would be the largest drone penalty on record, surpassing a $270,000 fine from 2024. It marks a significant jump from 2024's 18 fines, which ranged from under $2,000 to nearly $40,000.

The agricultural drone industry has exploded since 2020, growing from practically nothing to 16.4 million acres sprayed last year. With this growth comes increased scrutiny.

The distinction matters: flying a drone for field photography requires basic remote pilot certification, but spraying fertilizer or crop protection products classifies it as an agricultural aircraft operation, requiring an additional Part 137

certificate. More than 1,700 operators currently hold this certification.

The FAA updated its enforcement policy this year, making legal action the first response rather than issuing warnings.

(FarmProgress, August 19, 2026)
https://www.farmprogress.com/tv-and-radio/faa-cracks-down-on-illegal-drone-spraying-with-record-fine

UCR RESEARCH FINDS PESTICIDES MAKE ANTS GO CRAZY

Don't assume an uptick in any activity after setting out means the treatment failed. New UC Riverside research shows their behavior changes as chemicals make their way through a colony.

Dong Hwan Choe/UCR
Comparison of normal ant activity outside the nest, above, with activity after exposure to thiamethoxam, below.

The research from the laboratory of UCR entomology professor Dong Hwan Choe was recently published in the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute's journal Insects. It focused on the ways invasive Argentine ants, the ones most commonly found in homes and gardens in Southern California, respond to two common insecticides used in ant baits: thiamethoxam and boric acid.

While both treatments kill most of the worker ants in the colony, they do so at different rates. Thiamethoxam killed all the workers within about seven days, while boric acid killed roughly 90% within about two weeks. The ants' behavior also varied widely in the days immediately following exposure.

"During a previous study, we saw the ants behaving strangely on the first or second day after introducing a thiamethoxam bait, and it made us wonder if the behavior was related to the toxic effects of the insecticide," Choe said.

Thiamethoxam is a neonicotinoid, known to be highly effective against various types of insects. Because it is also deadly for bees, there are more restrictions for using it; it cannot be sprayed on plants during flowering season. However, using it in stationary baits reduces the likelihood it will harm insects that aren't the intended targets.

Choe and his students constructed transparent colonies in the laboratory to give them a clear view of the ants' activity both inside and outside their nesting sites.

In healthy colonies, Argentine ants spread themselves throughout the available nesting space. Most remain inside caring for the queen, young ants, and other colony members, while some workers venture outside to search for food.

After exposure to thiamethoxam, many more ants became much more active outside the nest, roaming through the foraging area before eventually dying. Because the chemical targets the nervous system, Choe suspects the extra activity may result from neurological effects.

“It’s like they’re all high on nicotine,” Choe said. “Their nervous systems have been compromised by the insecticide.”

Thiamethoxam mimics some of nicotine’s effects on the insect nervous system, overstimulating it and eventually causing paralysis.

Boric acid produced nearly the opposite behavioral response. Rather than roaming outside the nest, affected ants stopped foraging altogether and gathered tightly inside the nesting space, especially near any sources of water.

Some people choose boric acid because it is less toxic for non-target insects. It affects multiple parts of the ants’ bodies, particularly the lining of the midgut, which plays an important role in digestion and nutrient absorption. In some ants, boric acid is also known to damage their excretory organ, which plays central roles in water regulation and waste removal. Choe said these effects could help explain why poisoned ants congregate near water, though more research is required to prove that idea.

Understanding these differences could help pest control professionals and consumers better interpret what they see after putting out ant bait.

For example, when ants stop foraging after encountering boric acid, it might appear that a colony has been quickly eliminated. But surviving ants could later reappear. With thiamethoxam, the opposite can happen. Poisoned workers may wander into visible places like sinks, garages or windowsills for a day or two before dying, making an infestation appear to be getting worse.

The findings could also inform how manufacturers formulate ant baits. Workers share food throughout a colony, which can dilute the amount of insecticide individual ants receive. Choe said lower doses of thiamethoxam could potentially prolong the unusual roaming behavior.

Another note of caution: while there are no known cases of insecticide resistance developing in ants, they are notoriously challenging to control. As noted above, both chemicals kill most of the workers in an ant colony. However, the treatments may not always be effective in killing the queen. Therefore, a single application of bait often produces temporary relief from the pests because another invasion can occur when the queen hatches a new brood.

This project took more than two years to complete and included significant contributions from students working in Choe’s lab. Beyond revealing what happens inside a poisoned ant colony,

Choe hopes the findings will help people recognize that unusual activity after bait application does not necessarily mean the treatment has failed.

“Though these treatments don’t work immediately, you can see by the ants’ behavior that they’re affected,” he said. (PCT Online, August 21, 2026) https://www.pctonline.com/news/ucr-research-finds-pesticides-make-ants-go-crazy/

CEU MEETINGS

ODAFF is changing vendors for their CEU meeting webpage. The new page was not available at the time of publishing this newsletter. ODAFF is working to get the new page up as quickly as possible.

You can check the ODAFF webpage for this new site and we will make updates to the links on the pested.okstate.edu page once ODAFF has the new page up and running.

Date: September 30-October 1, 2026
Title: OPMA 2026 FALL CONFERENCE
Location: Grand Casino & Hotel, Shawnee OK
Contact: OPMA (405) 726-8773
Oklahoma Pest Management Association
https://ok-pma.com/Events

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBA	TBA

Date: September 30-October 1, 2026
Title: OKMA 2026 FALL CONFERENCE
Location: Hard Rock Hotel, Catoosa OK
Contact: OKVMA (918)-314-9032
https://okvma.com/conferences/

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBA	TBA

Date: November 18-19, 2026
Title: 2026 Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference
Location: Tulsa Tech Owasso Campus
Contact: OTRF (405)-818-9720
https://www.otrf.net/events.html

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBA	TBA

ODAFF APPROVED ONLINE CEU COURSE LINKS

Online Pest Control Courses
https://www.onlinepestcontrolcourses.com/

PestED.com
https://www.pested.com/

Certified Training Institute
https://www.certifiedtraininginstitute.com/

WSU URBAN IPM AND PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
https://pep.wsu.edu/rct/recertonline/

CEU University
http://www.ceuschool.org/

Technical Learning College
http://www.abctlc.com/

All Star Pro Training
www.allstarce.com

Wood Destroying Organism Inspection Course
www.nachi.org/wdocourse.htm

CTN Educational Services Inc
https://ctnedu.com/

Veseris
http://www.pestweb.com/

AG CEU Online
https://agceuonline.com/courses/state/37

Target Specialty Products Online Training
https://www.target-specialty.com/training/online-training

American Pest CEUs https://americanpestceus.com/

Pestschool.com https://pestschool.com/

For more information and an updated list of CEU meetings, click on this link:

ODAFF TEST INFORMATION

Testing will be done at testing centers in multiple locations around the state by PSI Services LLC.

Reservation must be made in advance at https://test-takers.psiexams.com/okpest or call **855-579-4643**

PSI locations.

Oklahoma City 3800 N Classen Blvd, Ste C-20, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Tulsa 2840 E. 51st Street, Brittany Square Office Park, Suite 215, Tulsa, OK 74105

McAlester 21 East Carl Albert Parkway (US Hwy 270), McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

Woodward 1915 Oklahoma Ave, Suite 3, Woodward, OK 73801

Lawton Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West Lee Blvd Building 300- RM 308, Lawton, OK 73505

Enid Autry Technology Center, 1201 W. Willow Rd, Room 402, Enid, OK 73703

Ponca City Pioneer Technology Center, 2101 N Ash, Ponca City, OK 74601

South Penn - Moore Norman Technology Center
13301 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City OK

Weatherford-Southwestern Oklahoma State University 1001 N 7th St. Weatherford OK

Durant-Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
1802 Chukka Hina Drive, Durant OK

Ardmore-Southern Tech, 2610 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please email or call:
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Charles Luper
405-744-5808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

Pesticide Safety Education Program