

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University

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CHEM

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EPA OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to Section 2(a) the Executive Order 14414, *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture and Strengthening American Farm Resilience*, EPA has proposed and is taking public comment on the actions noted below. Each active ingredient is already commercially available; the proposed new uses would, if finalized, give farmers and other users a potential new alternative to older products and chemistries currently in use.

- **Florpyrauxifen-benzyl**– EPA is proposing a new use of the herbicide florpyrauxifen-benzyl on turf ([EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0646](#))
- **Topramezone**– EPA is proposing a new use of the herbicide topramezone for over-the-top use on topramezone-tolerant cotton ([EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-3291](#))
- **Isoxaflutole**- EPA is proposing a new use of the herbicide isoxaflutole for over-the-top use on isoxaflutole-tolerant cotton ([EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0202](#))

Before any pesticide can be registered, the law requires EPA to find that the product, used as labeled, does not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. EPA applied that same gold-standard review to each of these active ingredients: comprehensive consideration of

toxicity across multiple species and life stages, specific evaluation of children's safety and developmental effects, assessment of any reproductive and chronic health impacts, environmental fate and exposure analysis, and where warranted, Endangered Species Act evaluations with any necessary mitigation. It is also worth noting these are not all new chemistries — several are new or expanded uses of already-registered active ingredients.

These tools help farmers manage economically damaging, herbicide-resistant weeds like Palmer amaranth, and they support regenerative, soil-health practices such as no-till farming — an alternative to intensive tillage that increases runoff and erosion. EPA welcomes feedback on these proposed actions during the comment periods and will keep the public informed of any additional actions relevant to implementing Executive Order 14414, as appropriate. (EPA, July 2, 2026)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-public-comment-periods-pursuant-executive-order>

GROUP SEEKS PESTICIDE CANCER LABELS

An environmental group is asking for warning labels on all pesticide products that contain active ingredients found to have any potential link to cancer, in an emergency petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week.

The petition filed by the Center for Biological Diversity comes on the heels of the Supreme Court's Roundup ruling in *Monsanto Co. v. Durnell*, which held the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, preempts state tort claims for failure to warn if the EPA did not require cancer warnings.

"Therefore users of pesticide products can no longer claim that a product label failed to warn them of cancer if the EPA did not require a cancer warning on the label," the group said in the petition. "The court has removed the backstop of state law, making it imperative that the EPA grant this petition."

The petition, directed to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin and other agency officials, said there continues to be many active ingredients in pesticides that have some evidence of carcinogenicity.

The center said that as of 2024, the EPA concluded that 199 pesticide active ingredients have at least some evidence of carcinogenicity and 124 of the active ingredients are still registered for use in more than 4,000 end-use products.

"Of the 124 currently registered active ingredients, the EPA has designated 38 as 'probable' or 'likely' human carcinogens and EPA has designated 87 as having 'possible' or 'suggestive' evidence of human carcinogenic potential," the petition said.

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The center said it examined more than 93,000 pesticide labels that EPA approved and found just six labels with cancer warnings. In addition, the petition said the agency has been inconsistent in how it approaches warning labels.

"There are no cancer warnings on any of the product labels containing 119 other active ingredients with evidence of carcinogenicity," the petition said.

"Some products with carcinogenic active ingredients have cancer warnings while other products containing the same active ingredient do not have any cancer warning. For instance, the EPA

added a cancer warning to a product containing triphenyltin hydroxide called Sipcam. However, another product called Minerva Duo, which also contains triphenyltin hydroxide, carries no cancer warning."

The center also invokes the Trump administration's "Make America Healthy Again" initiative.

"Adding cancer warnings to pesticide product labels would be an important step in demonstrating that the EPA is willing to take actual action to make America healthy again," the petition said.

The petition asks the EPA to make three changes through rulemaking. That includes an amendment to federal labeling laws to add: "A cancer warning for any active ingredient that EPA has determined is a known, probable or possible cause of human cancer or for which there is suggestive evidence it causes human cancer."

The center asked the EPA to require cancer warnings on the front panel of labels and to add a new subsection to the law governing the content and placement of warning statements.

Existing EPA label regulations only require warnings for acute hazards, the petition said, creating what the center said is a gap in the law.

"If the EPA is aware of evidence of carcinogenicity of a pesticide active ingredient but fails to add a precautionary statement," the petition said, "EPA is at risk that a federal court could find that the EPA did not abide by their own regulations and duties under FIFRA." (ProgressiveFarmer, July 9, 2026)
<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2026/07/09/epa-petition-124-pesticide-come>

ADJUVANTS TAKE FLIGHT: FORMULATING FOR THE DRONE ERA

Drone adoption is increasing, and adjuvant formulations are becoming more critical.

"As drone fleets become larger, more autonomous, and more economically attractive, we can expect demand for drone-compatible formulations and specialized adjuvants to accelerate significantly over the next five years," says Rovensa Next's Global Scientific and Technical Manager Cédric Ernenwein.

Rene Haensel, Global Head of Applied Technology Agriculture, Agriculture & Specialties, at Evonik, says that adjuvants are key for successful spraying.

"With certain tank-mix additives, we can mitigate the drift problems and increase the biological efficacy," he says.

Refocusing R&D

As drone delivery systems become more prevalent, many large manufacturers are refining their R&D strategies.

Ernenwein says adjuvant formulations will need to consider droplet size management, drift reduction, deposition efficiency, spreading, evaporation control, and compatibility with rotary atomizers.

Steve Li, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Weed Science in Auburn University's Department of Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences, says these formulation adaptations may take time.

“It’s very new technology, and it’s still expanding,” Li says. “Right now, it’s more appropriate to say we’re testing all the existing formulations to see which ones actually fit drone applications.”

Haensel cautioned that while formulation is one thing, regulatory approval is another.

“Maybe a lot of people are already developing such formulations, but we still need some time until they get approval from the authorities,” Haensel said.

Darryl Ramoutar, Global Technical Director, Agriculture, gChem, says that in an effort to focus on co-formulants and adjuvant systems, many companies are engaging in co-development partnerships.

“These partnerships are closely aligned with the rise of precision application technologies, as modern ag integrates digital tools, advanced sensing, and data analytics to enable site-specific input management,” Ramoutar says. “The result is improved resource efficiency, enhanced agronomic outcomes, and reduced environmental impact.”

Regional Differences

As with many new technologies, adoption rates vary across different regions.

While Ramoutar says adoption is already advanced in parts of Asia (particularly China, Japan, and South Korea), in North America, drone applications are treated under conventional aerial application rules, highlighting uneven global regulatory maturity.

“China and India have integrated drones into pesticide frameworks or introduced drone-specific labeling, while Japan explicitly includes drone use in product directions,” Ramoutar says. “Conversely, the U.S., Brazil, and Australia rely on existing aerial application regulations, and Europe and Canada

impose stricter requirements that limit widespread deployment.”

Despite these barriers, Li says drone usage in the U.S. has increased in recent years.

“Five years ago, when you talked to a farmer in the Southeast or Midwest about spray drones, nobody knew a thing,” Li says. “Within the last three years, we have seen a rapid expansion of drone applications.”

Technical differences, including drone payload capacity, spray technologies, and application protocols, also play a role in the rate of adoption, Ernenwein says.

These regional disparities also extend to formulation and adjuvant strategies.

For instance, Ramoutar says Asia is a leader in developing drone-specific formulations and standardized adjuvant use, embedding them directly into application systems, while Latin America and North America primarily adapt conventional products through tank mixes and operational adjustments. Europe emphasizes low-toxicity and environmentally compliant adjuvants, and Africa remains in an early stage of adoption, with limited innovation and reliance on generic inputs.

In addition, Ernenwein says agronomic context matters.

“Drone application is particularly well suited to situations where conventional spraying is difficult or inefficient, such as small plots, steep and uneven types of terrain, as well as for targeted re-applications during the vegetative stage,” Ernenwein says. “It is also increasingly relevant in high-value crops where precision and reduced crop damage are essential.”

He cites rice crops, vineyards, orchards, and certain specialty crops, where accessibility, water management, and canopy structure constrain traditional spraying methods.

“Overall, despite these regional differences, drone adoption is accelerating across all continents, paving the way for promising innovations in adjuvants,” Ernenwein says.

What’s Ahead

Over the next five to 10 years, Ramoutar says drone formulations and adjuvant technologies will shift from basic additives to specialized, data-driven tools integrated with application systems and digital agronomy platforms.

“Growth will focus on smart, responsive chemistries, including drift-control polymers, adaptive surfactants, and bio-based deposition aids designed for unmanned aerial vehicle specific droplet spectra and environmental conditions,” Ramoutar says.

He adds that artificial intelligence tools may accelerate precise modeling of spray behavior, optimized formulation design, and data-driven application decisions.

Ernenwein says that as the industry matures, greater standardization and clearer specifications will be required to ensure more precise and consistent product application.

“We expect major technological advances in drone systems, including increased autonomy, higher payload capacities, improved navigation systems, and the deployment of coordinated drone swarms,” Ernenwein says. “Future solutions must combine high performance with robust environmental and regulatory profiles.”

However, Ernenwein emphasizes that aerial application must be conducted with extreme precision to minimize the risk of environmental contamination, with drift management as a key priority.

“If drift risks are not adequately controlled, regulatory restrictions could slow the adoption of this technology and limit growth potential,” says Ernenwein. “This is why adjuvants with robust drift reduction properties play such an important role. Beyond improving application performance, they contribute to safer, more responsible use of crop protection products by helping ensure that products reach their intended target while minimizing environmental exposure.” (CropLife, August 10, 2026) <https://www.croplife.com/crop-inputs/adjuvants/adjuvants-take-flight-formulating-for-the-drone-era/>

RODENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR PLAGUE IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

A Santa Fe County, N.M., rodent has been diagnosed with plague, the first confirmed wild animal plague case in the county in 2026, the [New Mexico Department of Health](#) (NMDOH) reported on July 2.

NMDOH reports the rodent was turned in by a person who found it dead on their property. Earlier this year, three Santa Fe County dogs and one Bernalillo County dog were also diagnosed with plague, making a total of five animal plague cases in the state this year. Plague is a bacterial disease that circulates in wildlife and is commonly transmitted through flea bites. Plague symptoms in cats and dogs include fever, lethargy and loss of appetite.

There may be swelling in the lymph node under the jaw.

“While this is an animal case of plague, it’s important to remember humans can get plague from flea bites or direct contact with infected animals, including rodents, wildlife and even pets,” said Dr. Chad Smelser, deputy state epidemiologist for NMDOH. “Pets can be infected with plague if they eat an infected animal or are bitten by infected fleas.”

Plague symptoms in humans include sudden onset of fever, chills, headache and weakness. In most cases, there is a swollen, painful lymph node in the groin, armpit or neck area.

Prompt diagnosis and antibiotic treatment greatly reduce the risk of death in people and pets. Physicians or veterinarians who suspect plague should promptly report to the NMDOH Helpline at 1-833-SWNURSE (1-833-796-8773). Questions can also be text to 66364 (NMDOH).

(PCT Online, July 20, 2026)
<https://www.pctonline.com/news/rodent-tests-positive-for-plague-in-santa-fe-county/>

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 should have a new CEU meeting page up sometime this month.

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 2, 2026
Title: ENSYSTEX - 2026 CEU Workshop
Location: Tulsa OK
Contact: Don Stetler (281)-217-2965
<https://ensystexceu.com/#95d40a97-d688-4731-9d1a-1e00ab8de51e>

CEU's:	Category(s):
1	7A
2	7B

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/>

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

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