

PESTICIDE REPORTS

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



April, 2021

CHEM

- 1 UNWANTED PESTICIDE DISPOSAL COLLECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL
- 2 TEST HELP WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL IN OKLAHOMA CITY
- 2 EPA ADDRESSES ECOLOGICAL RISKS POSED BY FOUR PYRIDINES AND PYRIMIDINES HERBICIDES
- 3 EPA OPENS COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS ON FOUR PESTICIDES
- 3 US AGCHEM INDUSTRY CRITICISES EPA TRIAZINE ASSESSMENTS
- 4 BLIGHT MAY INCREASE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES
- 6 STATES CAN'T EXTEND DICAMBA SPRAY DATES
- 7 US AGCHEM INDUSTRY QUESTIONS CHLORPYRIFOS HEALTH ASSESSMENT
- 8 BAYER WON'T SEEK SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF ROUNDUP VERDICT
- 8 EPA: POLITICS TAINTED DICAMBA DECISION
- 10 FLORIDA PEST CONTROL, MIAMI MARLINS PARTNER TO HELP SAFEGUARD MARLINS PARK
- 11 CEU MEETINGS
- 12 ONLINE CEU LINKS
- 12 ODAFF TEST INFORMATION

UNWANTED PESTICIDE DISPOSAL COLLECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

ODAFF has scheduled the next Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Program collection dates for April 2021. They will occur April 1st, 2021 in Purcell and April 27 in Claremore. The locations are the McClain County Fairgrounds and the Claremore Expo Center. The Disposal will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine at both locations.

There is no charge for this program. **Limit is 2,000 pounds per entity.** ONLY PESTICIDES will be taken at the sites (no fertilizer, paint, oil, etc)! If you have any questions, contact Charles Luper (OSU) at 405-744-5808 or Ryan Williams (ODAFF) at 405-522-5993.

April 1st McClain County Fairgrounds
1721 Hardcastle Blvd, Purcell OK

April 27th Claremore Expo Center
400 Veterans Pkwy Claremore, OK

For more information please go to
<https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/pesticide-safety-education/unwanted-pesticide-disposal-program/index.html>(OSU PSEP)

TEST HELP WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The Oklahoma State University Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) has scheduled a test help workshop for April 8, 2021 in Oklahoma City. The workshop will be held at the Oklahoma County Extension Center at 2500 N.E. 63rd St. in Oklahoma City.

With new social distance and safety procedures class size is limited and mask are required to be worn at all times during the program.

Cost is \$50 and will include a copy of Applying Pesticides Correctly which is the study manual for the core and service technician exams. To register for this class please go to the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) website at <https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/pesticide-safety-education/practical-workshop-and-re-certification-dates/> and click on the register online link. Class information and an agenda can also be found at that website.
(OSU PSEP)

EPA ADDRESSES ECOLOGICAL RISKS POSED BY FOUR PYRIDINES AND PYRIMIDINES HERBICIDES

Today, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed interim decision for picloram and interim decisions for clopyralid, dithiopyr and triclopyr to address ecological risks.

The interim decision (ID) for dithiopyr finalizes enforceable mitigation measures to address spray drift risks of concern. The IDs for clopyralid and triclopyr finalize enforceable mitigation measures to address potential residues in compost in addition to spray drift. The compost mitigation measures for clopyralid and triclopyr include label language focusing on:

- Reducing compost contamination by prohibiting off-site composting of treated plant matter and manure from grazing animals until residues have adequately declined (both clopyralid and triclopyr);
- Requiring pasture and turf applicators to notify the property owners/operators of the compost prohibition, and for the applicator to keep a record of this notification for two year (clopyralid only);
- Requiring registrants to participate in a stewardship program and provide educational outreach for those affected by herbicide residues in compost (clopyralid only); and,
- Removal of residential use on turf language from all labels (clopyralid only).

In addition to the IDs, EPA is also releasing the proposed interim decision (PID) for picloram for public comment. The PID for picloram proposes mitigation similar to the mitigation measures in the clopyralid ID.

Interim registration review decisions impose risk mitigation measures necessary to protect the environment pending additional assessments including an endangered species assessment.

The pyridines and pyrimidines are a class of herbicides used to control broadleaf weeds, woody brush and aquatic plants in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings that vary among the herbicides. Agricultural use sites include grains, fruits, vegetables and other crops. Non-agricultural use sites include turf, industrial areas, roadsides and other non-agricultural sites.

Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, the IDs will be available in docket numbers EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0167 (clopyralid), EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0750 (dithiopyr) and EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0576 (triclopyr) and the PID will be available for a 60-day public comment period in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0740 (picloram) at www.regulations.gov.

After reviewing and considering the public comments received on the proposed interim decision for picloram, EPA will proceed with the registration review process and issue the picloram ID.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires EPA to periodically review pesticides to ensure that risk assessments reflect the best available science. The proposed interim decision and interim decisions are part of a multi-step process to identify risks as well as actions that can mitigate risks.

Additional information on the pyridine and pyrimidine herbicides proposed and interim decisions can be found on EPA's website.

(EPA March 18, 2021)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-addresses-ecological-risks-posed-four-pyridines-and-pyrimidines-herbicides>

EPA OPENS COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS ON FOUR PESTICIDES

EPA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are seeking comment on [two NMFS draft biological opinions](#) on four pesticides. Metolachlor, bromoxynil and prometryn are herbicides used to control grasses and broadleaf weeds, and 1,3-D is a pesticide used in pre-plant fumigation.

The draft biological opinions evaluate the impact of these pesticides on 26 federally listed endangered and threatened species of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon, and California. The draft biological opinions find that registered uses of these pesticides do not jeopardize the listed salmon and steelhead populations or their critical habitats.

In addition to the “no jeopardy” findings, the draft biological opinions also describe reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) to protect the listed species of salmon and steelhead and their critical habitats.

EPA and NMFS encourage public input on the RPMs. In particular, the agencies are seeking input from stakeholders on:

1. Additional risk reduction options, if any, to include in the RPMs.
2. Efficacy data to support additional risk reduction options; in the case of 1,3-D, data to support increased soil injection depth and tarping as a means of reducing pesticide loading into aquatic habitats.
3. Existing stewardship programs to reduce pesticide loading within the range of listed salmonids (i.e., family of coldwater fish that includes salmon and trout) that NMFS should consider for qualification of risk reduction credit in the RPMs.

After the public comment period closes, EPA will provide the collected comments to NMFS for its consideration in developing the final biological opinions.

In publishing these draft biological opinions and accepting public comments, EPA is following the [enhanced stakeholder practices](#) for [Endangered Species Act](#) consultations finalized in March 2013.

The public comment period will be open for 60 days. The draft biological opinions are included in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0150 at www.regulations.gov.

(EPA February 19, 2021)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-comment-period-draft-biological-opinions-four-pesticides>

US AGCHEM INDUSTRY CRITICISES EPA TRIAZINE ASSESSMENTS

The assessment methods used by the US EPA in its draft biological evaluations for the triazine herbicides, atrazine, propazine and simazine, are “overly complex” and do not accurately reflect practical situations, says agrochemical industry association CropLife America (CLA). The EPA released the draft evaluations last year and extended the period for comments in January. Even with the extension, there is not sufficient time to

adequately evaluate the tools and methods used, the CLA says.

In its interim decisions last year, the EPA said that use of the herbicides could continue provided new measures to reduce health and environmental risks are imposed. These include mandatory spray drift control measures and a reduction in maximum application rates for residential uses. Its conclusions are subject to the completion of biological evaluations carried out under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA) to assess the impact on certain species and their habitats.

The draft biological evaluations concluded that atrazine is likely to adversely affect 54% of all listed species and 40% of critical habitats, and that simazine is likely to adversely affect approximately 53% of species and 40% of critical habitats. The figures for propazine are 4% and 2%, respectively. If these findings are confirmed in the final evaluations, the EPA must consult with federal wildlife services to propose ways to reduce risks.

However, the draft evaluations “continue to demonstrate that the EPA has not yet reached a workable, consistent and sustainable approach to assessments for listed species”, the CLA says. The new tools and models incorporated spatial data, effect thresholds, new exposure models and probabilistic methods to evaluate potential risk. The methods lack transparency, are confusing, have problems with quality assurance and have insufficient documentation, the CLA charges.

With regard to the finalization of the evaluations, the CLA recommends that the EPA reduces the level of “compounding conservatism” in the assessment, adjust the approach to more accurately incorporate use and usage information, and better establish the link between pesticide exposure and an affect that is reasonably certain to occur.

The CLA urges the Agency to encourage discussions with industry, agricultural groups and non-governmental organizations. Their input could lead to the development of risk assessments that are efficient, scientifically sound and based on the best

available scientific and commercial data, the CLA says.

Shortly after the comment period extension, the EPA and other US agencies were ordered by new US President Joe Biden to freeze and review all new and pending rules. The EPA’s decision to reapprove the three triazine herbicides is also facing a lawsuit from environmentalist and consumer protection groups.

(Connect AGRIBUSINESS, March 2, 2021)

BLIGHT MAY INCREASE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

LSU researchers recently published findings that blight leads to an increased abundance of disease-carrying mosquitoes. The researchers investigated the presence of several mosquito species in two adjacent but socio-economically contrasting neighborhoods in Baton Rouge: the historic Garden District, a high income neighborhood, and the Old South neighborhood, a low-income area. They found significantly higher adult and larvae abundance of the Asian tiger mosquito (a carrier of Zika and dengue) and higher mosquito habitat availability—particularly discarded tires—in the Old South neighborhood.

This indicates that environmental conditions in the low-income neighborhood were most ideal for this mosquito to breed and proliferate.

“These two neighborhoods are very similar in terms of vegetation cover, human population and density of households. One of the main differences is blight. One neighborhood has a lot of blight in the form of abandoned residences, empty lots and mismanaged waste, and the other neighborhood does not.

It was the perfect set of conditions for addressing this question,” said Rebeca de Jesús Crespo, lead author and an assistant professor in LSU’s College of the Coast & Environment.

In recent years, the Old South neighborhood has been the focus of revitalization plans by multiple stakeholder groups. The researchers recommended that these blight reduction efforts continue for the benefit of public health.

“This is an area at high risk of these mosquito-borne diseases,” said Madison Harrison, co-author of the publication. “All that it takes for these diseases to spread is for the right vector to be infected with the pathogen and to bite humans at the right point of incubation of said pathogen.”

So far, Zika and dengue are not currently present in the state. However, Louisiana’s climate is ideal for these diseases to spread once introduced.

According to de Jesús Crespo, Harrison was an invaluable addition to the team. Currently, she is a public health master’s student at LSU Health New Orleans.

“In the College of the Coast & Environment, for almost every project that we do, we are integrated and interdisciplinary. We take a broad approach to doing research that is important for solving problems in real time.

For this project, it was important to me to include Madison from LSU Health Sciences as well as community stakeholders who could provide their expertise and unique perspectives,” de Jesús Crespo said.

The researchers examined the prevalence of two container-breeding species of mosquitoes that are known to spread disease, the Asian tiger mosquito and the southern house mosquito

(a carrier of West Nile virus). They inspected potential larvae habitats (such as discarded tires, discarded Styrofoam cups and snack bags, plant pots and water baths) in publicly accessible locations and calculated the percentage of those that contained larvae. Additionally, they placed adult mosquito traps around the perimeter of some private homes with the permission from the homeowner; in an abandoned house and in an empty lot with trash accumulation in the higher income neighborhood.

They found that the adult population of the southern house mosquito was fairly diffuse, but the lower income neighborhood had significantly higher numbers of Asian tiger mosquito (adults and larvae) and higher numbers of total mosquito larvae. This shows that the presence of discarded container habitats due to neglect provides more breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes, disproportionately affecting low-income groups.

“I think everybody can agree that urban blight is a problem we need to solve here in Baton Rouge. Mosquito risk is one of those factors that could impact human health and that adds another level of importance with that,” de Jesús Crespo said.

Additional collaborators on this project include Rachel Rogers, a graduate student in the LSU Department of Environmental Sciences, and Randy Vaeth from East Baton Rouge Parish Mosquito Abatement and Rodent Control.

(PCT Online March 16, 2021)

<https://www.pctonline.com/article/blight-increase-public-health-risks-mosquito-borne-diseases/>

STATES CAN'T EXTEND DICAMBA SPRAY DATES

EPA has moved to block state attempts to extend the dicamba cutoffs listed on the federal labels of XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium in 2021.

The news came to light at a meeting of pesticide regulators taking place virtually this week, the annual conference of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO).

EPA said it intends to deny an attempt by North Carolina to extend the cutoff dates for dicamba to accommodate late-planted cotton and soybean fields. The state was working to move the federal cutoff of June 20 for soybeans and July 30 for cotton out to July 31 for both crops.

Several states are trying to institute similar dicamba spray extensions via Section 24(c) special local needs labels, which allow states to add additional uses to federal pesticide labels. EPA's denial of the North Carolina extension has come as a surprise to many state regulators, outgoing AAPCO President Leo Reed noted. Although EPA recently cracked down on more restrictive 24(c) labels, the agency still allows more permissive ones. (See more here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...>)

At issue, however, is legal liability for the agency, explained Michal Freedhoff, acting assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP).

The agency re-registered the three dicamba herbicides in 2020, after a federal court vacated the EPA's 2018 dicamba registrations, she told attendees. The court told EPA it failed to properly assess the risks of in-season dicamba use in 2018, and the 2020 labels are the agency's attempt to fix that, Freedhoff said. The agency is already facing multiple lawsuits over those new labels. (See more here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...>)

Permitting state 24(c) labels that were more permissive than these new 2020 labels could open the agency up to even more legal challenges, Freedhoff concluded.

"I could imagine a scenario where a court would say, 'You've told us the 2020 label measures are sufficient, and yet you told a bunch of states that they don't have to use them anymore,'" she said. "And that, I think, could have ended up with a bad outcome for everybody, not just one state."

This stance has frustrated state regulators, particularly those who did not record many off-target dicamba injury complaints in 2020 or past years, said North Carolina Farm Bureau president Shawn Harding, who also addressed the meeting's attendees.

"[EPA] told us [in a letter] that they understood that farmers needed that [cutoff extension] because of late planting of soybeans or cotton, but they still decided not to do that," he said. "That was a little frustrating for me. The letter was basically saying, 'We see where this could help farmers, but we're not going to do it.'"

DTN obtained a copy of the letter from EPA to North Carolina, stating the agency's "intent to disapprove" the state's proposed 24(c) labels with an extended dicamba cutoff of July 31 for soybeans and cotton. In the letter, EPA's current acting administrator, Jane Nishida, wrote that past evidence of late-season off-target dicamba injury has convinced the agency that its federal cutoff dates must stand for this season.

"There is ample record evidence that off-field emissions and incidents tied to dicamba use have been associated with late-season applications," Nishida wrote in the letter. "Therefore, the EPA has concluded that the use schedule and cutoff dates established under the federal labels which permit OTT treatments are necessary to maintain the no unreasonable adverse effects determination which supports these registrations." Nor is the agency impressed with state-specific data on low dicamba complaints.

"The specific information in the [special local needs label] that applicators using over-the-top dicamba on dicamba-tolerant soybeans in North Carolina have self-reported fewer incidents of off-target movement in recent years falls short of demonstrating that extension of the required cutoff dates will not result in unreasonable adverse effects," Nishida wrote.

However, EPA might be open to allowing 24(c) cutoff extensions for "new situations" that might arise in the growing season, said Ed Messina, acting director of the agency's Office of Pesticide Programs. "If you have conditions in your state that are new, for example, maybe flooding and a late planting season, then come in and talk to us," he said at the meeting. "If there are new situations that are arising that warrant a need for 24(c) labels for dicamba, we're definitely willing to discuss that."

EPA's decision on dicamba spray extensions could also change in the years ahead, Freedhoff assured state regulators.

"I think we felt like we need a growing season worth of data under our belts to see what happens and make sure the measures put in place in 2020 were the right ones, and we will be better able to assess states' requests after that," she said.

EPA's decision not to allow dicamba cutoff extensions should not affect recent state rulemaking to further restrict the dicamba labels, Freedhoff said. See more on those state efforts here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...> and here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...>

(Progressive Farmer, March 8, 2021)
<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2021/03/08/epa-blocks-dicamba-spray-date-states>

US AGCHEM INDUSTRY QUESTIONS CHLORPYRIFOS HEALTH ASSESSMENT

US agrochemical industry association CropLife America (CLA) has questioned the data and methods used in US EPA's health assessment of the insecticide, chlorpyrifos. The EPA has proposed re-registration, subject to additional risk mitigation measures, but CLA argues that the use of older, flawed epidemiological studies does not support extra use restrictions. Its submission to the EPA comes after the Agency had to extend the comment period because US President Joe Biden ordered a review of the re-registration proposal.

In its interim decision, the EPA concluded that the science addressing neurodevelopment effects of chlorpyrifos remains "unresolved" and that it would apply a 10x safety factor in its review. However, CLA questions the EPA's use of a 2015 literature review that was based on a limited set of epidemiology studies. More recent studies from the US, France and the Netherlands refute the conclusions of many of these studies, it says.

CLA does not believe that the evidence exists to justify adopting risk mitigation strategies before establishing the risk. It urges the EPA to continue its research to validate potential risk and to consider newer data and information before cancelling any registrations.

The EPA's controversial re-registration proposal was condemned by environmentalist groups and the Agency's reversal of a previous decision to ban the insecticide is the subject of ongoing lawsuits. Canada decided in December to ban most outdoor uses of chlorpyrifos and the EU is pressing for a global ban after phasing out use of the insecticide last year.

Nevertheless, chlorpyrifos is widely used by US farmers. In February, US fruit, vegetable and sunflower growers urged the EPA to continue with the registration. They argue that chlorpyrifos is a critical crop protection tool and that alternatives are costly and less effective. (Connect AGRIBUSINESS, March 12, 2021)

BAYER WON'T SEEK SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF ROUNDUP VERDICT

Bayer AG won't seek U.S. Supreme Court review of the first verdict finding its Roundup herbicide caused cancer.

The company said Tuesday that the decision not to pursue a further appeal of the verdict won by a school groundskeeper after a state appeals court reduced it to \$20.5 million was made after "careful and extensive consideration," and reflects a legal strategy to end the state court case and instead focus on the second Roundup verdict, in federal court.

"The decision is not based on the merits of this case," Bayer said in an e-mailed statement, referring to a lawsuit brought by Dewayne Johnson and decided in 2018 by a San Francisco jury. The federal case being reviewed by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "will serve as a better case for review by the Supreme Court," Bayer said.

Litigation over Roundup -- which plaintiffs claim causes cancer -- remains Bayer's biggest challenge. After losing three trials over the matter in the U.S., the company has been negotiating with tens of thousands of claimants for more than a year and a half, and has still failed to put the litigation behind it. Bayer insists the product is safe.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has weighed in on Bayer's side in the federal appeals court case, in which a jury found Roundup defective because it's sold without a cancer warning. A lower-court judge cut the verdict from more than \$80 million to \$25 million but refused to overturn the verdict.

The EPA has said it reviewed and approved the Roundup warning label issued by Monsanto, which Bayer acquired in 2018 for about \$63 billion. In the federal case, the agency backed Bayer's argument that plaintiff Edwin Hardeman's lawyers ignored the EPA's authority and instead improperly relied on California law to claim the omission resulted in a flawed label.

In its statement Friday, Bayer explained that in Johnson's case the key issue of "federal preemption" has no bearing on any lawsuit besides his.

Hardeman's case at the federal appeals court is "a better candidate for Supreme Court review" because the ruling is expected to address "the most significant federal questions at issue in the Roundup litigation, including preemption and the admissibility of expert evidence," Bayer said.

Johnson was originally awarded \$289 million. Bayer later won a ruling from the trial judge cutting it to \$78.6 million and then persuaded the appeals court to lop off another \$58 million.

While the Roundup litigation was significant before Johnson's case went to trial, the trio of verdicts against the company fueled a frenzy of lawsuits that as of June totaled more than 125,000. Bayer is also appealing the third verdict, which was in California state court.

Bayer said last month it still expects to spend \$9.6 billion to resolve existing suits over the controversial weedkiller.

"Bayer has great sympathy for Mr. Johnson and all people battling cancer yet continues to believe the Johnson verdict is not supported by the evidence or the law," Bayer said. (Southwest FarmPress, March 22, 2021)

<https://www.farmprogress.com/business/bayer-wont-seek-supreme-court-review-roundup-verdict>

EPA: POLITICS TAINTED DICAMBA DECISION

EPA's past 2018 dicamba registration decision was tainted by political interference and ignored important science on the herbicide's risks, according to an internal EPA email DTN has obtained and verified with the agency.

"Over the past few years, I am aware that political interference sometimes compromised the integrity of our science," Michal Freedhoff, the new acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, said in an email sent to all OCSPP employees on March 10, 2021.

The email highlights the agency's 2018 dicamba registrations of Bayer's XtendiMax herbicide, BASF's Engenia herbicide and Corteva's FeXapan herbicide as an example of that political interference.

"In 2018, OCSPP senior leadership directed career staff to: (1) rely on a limited data set of plant effects endpoints; (2) discount specific studies (some with more robust data) used in assessing potential risks and benefits; and (3) discount scientific information on negative impacts," Freedhoff wrote.

"This interference contributed to a court's vacating registrations based on these and other deficiencies, which in turn impacted growers' ability to use this product," she added, referring to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling on June 3, 2020, which vacated the registrations of XtendiMax, Engenia and FeXapan. See the DTN story on that ruling here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...>

It's not immediately clear what EPA's new view of its 2018 dicamba registrations will mean for how the agency will manage its most recent dicamba re-registrations, released in October 2020, for XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium (Syngenta). (EPA also granted a new registration to Corteva's FeXapan herbicide, but the company has opted to discontinue it.)

On Monday, March 8, Freedhoff told a conference of pesticide regulators that the agency is facing multiple lawsuits over those new registrations and -- in an effort to be able to defend them in court -- EPA is not allowing states to use Section 24(c) special local needs labels to either restrict or expand those labels. See the DTN story on that announcement here: <https://www.dtnpf.com/...>

At that conference, Freedhoff hinted that the agency may reevaluate its 2020 registrations at the end of this growing season. "I think we felt like we need a growing season worth of data under our belts to see what happens and make sure the measures put in place in 2020 were the right ones," she told regulators at that meeting.

The March 10 email from Freedhoff also highlights two other EPA decisions as politically compromised: its 2020 risk evaluation of an industrial compound, trichloroethylene (TCE) and its 2018 toxicity assessment of perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), a member of the long-lived PFAS family of chemicals that have been found in water and food packaging.

"White House staff directed OCSPP career staff to alter the draft TCE risk evaluation to change the point of departure used for making determinations of risk to a less sensitive endpoint," Freedhoff wrote. "... the magnitude of the risk from exposures to TCE would have been greater had EPA relied upon the fetal cardiac defect endpoint that had been used in previous EPA peer-reviewed assessments."

As for the PFBS toxicity assessment, the Biden EPA removed it from its website back in February because it "included conclusions purporting to reflect science when in fact they were the product of biased political interference directed in part by OCSPP's past political leadership," Freedhoff wrote.

Freedhoff's memo is written as a directive to EPA employees to reaffirm the agency's commitment to scientific integrity moving forward.

"I affirm my commitment to you to act with scientific integrity," Freedhoff said. "I expect you to do likewise when working with me and with each other." Freedhoff tells EPA employees she expects them to freely and openly discuss differing scientific opinions with her and their managers, point out errors when necessary, and respect "the role of science in risk assessments."

The letter states that policymakers at the top of the agency will be in better communication with scientists at the agency and calls for an "an environment free from political interference in the science."

"I expect ... an environment -- led in the first instance by OCSPP managers -- where everyone feels comfortable identifying errors, asking questions, and expressing differing scientific opinions, all without fear either of retaliation or being denigrated for speaking up," Freedhoff concluded.

See the full memo Freedhoff sent to OCSPP employees here: <https://www.dtn.com/...>

FLORIDA PEST CONTROL, MIAMI MARLINS PARTNER TO HELP SAFEGUARD MARLINS PARK

The Miami Marlins announced a multi-year partnership with Florida Pest Control and parent company Rentokil, a provider of disinfection, hygiene, and pest control services. The strategic partnership features a focus on providing additional proactive and innovative safety measures for guests at Marlins Park.

A key component to the partnership with Rentokil is the drone disinfection program, which will deliver effective and efficient disinfection of Marlins Park strategically throughout the year. Licensed pilots use FAA-approved, state-of-the-art drone technology and flight path programming for a targeted approach to cover large open areas, such as the seating bowl inside Marlins Park. A fast-acting formula inactivates pathogens within four (4) minutes of the drone application, including coronavirus, norovirus, H1N1, SARS, MRSA, swine flu, E. Coli, Salmonella and more. The formula leaves behind no harsh fumes or visible residue.

"As we prepare to welcome our fans back to Marlins Park, we continue to add health and safety measures that will enhance our guests' 2021 experience," said Michael Shaw, Marlins Head of Experience and Innovation. "This partnership with a longstanding industry leader in Rentokil allows us to utilize their state-of-the-art technology to enhance our disinfection process."

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to partner with the Miami Marlins to provide drone disinfection," said John Myers, president and CEO of Rentokil North America. "Our goal in everything we do is protecting people and enhancing lives. The Rentokil disinfection program is designed to help provide a safe environment for fans, ballpark staff and players. The Miami Marlins are going above and beyond to protect their community and make them safe inside Marlins Park."

With more than 100 years of hygiene expertise worldwide, Rentokil is the expert in creating safer environments for their customers. Large-area disinfection service is one of the many examples of how Rentokil continues to innovate.

The partnership comes on the heels of the Marlins announcement of enhanced health and safety measures to be applied at Marlins Park for the 2021 regular season and events.

In addition, Marlins Park was enrolled in the WELL Health-Safety Rating, joining Yankee Stadium as the first two Major League Baseball facilities to enroll and BB&T Center as the first two sports facilities in South Florida currently participating in the program.

For the latest news and updates, including details on the enhanced health and safety measures, please visit [Marlins.com/2021Season](https://www.marlins.com/2021Season).

CEU Meetings

Please note that many of these meetings are now being done virtual. Please contact the meeting host directly if you have any questions.

Date April 1, 2021

Title: Cotton County Cotton Meeting

Location: Walters

Contact: Kim Davis (580)-875-3136

Gary Strickland (580)-477-7962

CEU's: Category(s):

2 1A

2 10

Date April 8, 2021

Title: Dicamba & Private Applicator Training

Location:

Contact: Todd Baughman (580)-224-0623

CEU's: Category(s):

1 1A

Date April 15, 2021

Title: McClain County OSU Extension Virtual

Forage College

Location: Virtual

Contact: Justin McDaniel (405)-527-2174

CEU's: Category(s):

1 1A

Date May 20, 2021

Title: McClain County OSU Extension Virtual
Forage College

Location: Virtual

Contact: Justin McDaniel (405)-527-2174

CEU's: Category(s):

1 1A

Date September 7-9, 2021

Title: ENSYSTEEX - 2021 CEU Workshop

Location: TBA

Contact: Don Stetler (281) 217-2965

CEU's: Category(s):

2 7A

6 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

http://ctnedu.com/oklahoma_applicator_enroll.html

Pest Network

<http://www.pestnetwork.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>

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

<http://www.kellysolutions.com/OK/applicators/courses/searchCourseTitle.asp>

Testing dates and locations may be limited due to the Covid-19 emergency.

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

For more information and instructions, please go to <https://bit.ly/3sF4y0x>.

Reservation must be made in advance at

www.psiexams.com/ or call **855-579-4643**

PSI locations.

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

Oklahoma City II NW 23rd St and Villa Avenue, Suite 60, Shepherd Mall Office Complex, Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Tulsa 2816 East 51st Street, Suite 101, 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, Enid, OK 73703

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

Norman Moore Norman Technology Center, 4701 12th Ave NW, Norman, Oklahoma, 73070

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please email or call:

Kevin Shelton 405-744-060 kevin.shelton@okstate.edu or

Charles Luper 405-744-808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

Find us on Twitter at @OkstatePestEd

Pesticide Safety
Education Program