OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

PESTICIDE REPORTS

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

June, 2025 **CHEM**

JUNE TEST HELP WORKSHOPS

The Oklahoma State University Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) has will be holding test help workshops June 18 Tulsa in and June 25 in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City workshop will be at the Oklahoma County Extension Center at 2500 N.E. 63rd St. in Oklahoma City. The Tulsa workshop will be at the Tulsa County Extension Office at 4116 E 15th in Tulsa.

Registration cost is $50 before June 15 for Tulsa and $65 after June 15. Registration cost is $50 before June 23 for Oklahoma City and $65 after June 23. Registration will include a copy of Applying Pesticides Correctly. This 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 http://pested.okstate.edu/html/practical.htm and click on the register online link. Class information and an agenda is also at that website. Future 2025 workshop dates can be found on the website as well.
(OSU PSEP)

EPA PROPOSES TO REGISTER NEW PESTICIDE FOR VARROA MITE CONTROL

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to register one technical and two end use products containing the new active ingredient Vadescana, a double stranded RNA (dsRNA), for control against *Varroa* mites (*Varroa destructor*) in honey bee hives.

Varroa mites are parasites that feed on honey bees and transmit numerous honey bee viruses, both of which lead to reduced lifespan of bees. Once infested by *Varroa* mites, if left untreated, a honey bee colony will likely die. *Varroa* mites are a national threat to bee colonies and in turn to farmers with crops dependent on pollination services provided by bees, and ultimately to food security in the United States. EPA is prioritizing pesticide applications that target *Varroa* mites to provide beekeepers with a variety of tools to combat this pest.

No risks of concern to human health or the environment were identified, including risks to federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act. When used according to the label, risks to bees are not expected because Vadescana is highly specific to the targeted gene within *Varroa* mites.

Additionally, in March 2025, EPA registered a new varroacide product containing l-glutamic acid, an active ingredient that has not previously been included in registered products for use in bee hives. The agency also intends to register another product containing oxalic acid, a slow release varroacide within bee hives, by July 2025. Together, these four end use products are expected to provide new tools, including novel active ingredients, for control of *Varroa* mites in bee hives.

EPA will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, states and honey bee industry stakeholders in coordinated efforts to provide support for the beekeeping community. The agency is also working in collaboration with the National Pesticide Information Center, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Canada's Ministry of Agriculture for Fisheries and Food to develop educational and training content about bee kill investigations. These efforts include the development of videos available in English, Spanish and French Canadian that provide resources for pesticide decision makers and educate the public about Integrated Pest Management options and legal options of pest control for varroa mites, small hive beetles and wax moths. Additionally, EPA funded the development of interactive training modules to help pesticide applicators to conduct bee kill investigations.

The videos are available on the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services website.

To read more about the proposed registration of these products and to comment, see docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0558 at www.regulations.gov. The public comment period will be open for 15 days, closing on June 12, 2025.

(EPA, May 29, 2025)
https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-register-new-pesticide-varroa-mite-control

EPA ANNOUNCES PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF NEW ACTIVE INGREDIENT ISOCYCLOSERAM

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing for public comment its proposed registration decision for ten products containing the new active ingredient isocycloseram, a broad-spectrum contact insecticide proposed for use on agricultural crops, turf and ornamentals, as well as indoor and outdoor uses for commercial, industrial, and domestic sites. Some of the target pests for these products can cause significant crop damage and financial loss to growers, such as the tarnished plant bug in cotton, Colorado potato beetle in potatoes and diamondback moth in *Brassica* vegetables. This new active ingredient

would give farmers an additional tool to help manage crops and grow more food for our country.

EPA's Risk Assessments

In addition to its proposed registration decision, EPA has also released its human health risk assessment, ecological risk assessment, and draft biological evaluation, with the latter including EPA's Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA) determination for isocycloseram under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). An LAA determination means that EPA reasonably expects at least one listed plant or animal species may be exposed to the pesticide at a sufficient level to have an adverse effect. No human health risks of concern were identified when isocycloseram is used according to the proposed labels. EPA did not identify risks of concern for aquatic and terrestrial plants. EPA did identify potential risks of concern to insect pollinators from spray application, aquatic invertebrates from spray, seed and soil treatments, and chronic risks to birds and mammals ingesting treated rapeseed.

Proposed Mitigations

EPA is proposing the following mitigation measures to reduce potential ecological risks while providing growers with flexibility in controlling pests:

- Instructing users to access and follow any applicable endangered species bulletins from the Bulletins Live! Two web-based system for all additional directions and restrictions.

- Requiring various labels to include a link to the mitigation menu with run-off and erosion mitigations users can choose from.

- Labeling restricting application during rain and when soils are saturated or above capacity.
- Prohibiting aerial application for all uses except corn, cotton, potato, and soybean with geographical restrictions for uses on corn and soybean. Geographically specific restrictions will be in Bulletins using Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs).
- Requiring a spray drift buffer to most areas, for aerial, ground, and airblast applications.
- Prohibiting applications 3-days before and during bloom for orchard crops and applications during hours of the day when bees are most active for indeterminate blooming crops.
- Including best management practices, such as maintaining clear communication with local beekeepers, to help reduce the risk to pollinators and to promote the health and habitat of ground-nesting bees.
- Requiring advisories to protect pollinators from dust generated from abrasion of isocycloseram-treated seed coatings during planting.
- Instructing users on how to effectively cover or collect spilled treated seeds or treated seeds that have become exposed on the soil surface and for the management of excess treated seeds.

With these proposed mitigation measures and Bulletins with associated PULAs for eight listed species in place, EPA's draft biological evaluation predicts that the use of isocycloseram will not result in a likelihood of future jeopardy for the survival of any listed species, or a likelihood of adverse modification for any designated critical habitat.

Next Steps

After considering public comments on the proposed registration and the draft effects determinations, EPA will decide whether the registration action meets the standard for registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. If EPA determines that the registration action can be granted, the agency will finalize its biological evaluation. If a final biological evaluation finds that isocycloseram may affect any listed species or critical habitats, then EPA will initiate ESA consultation and share its findings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively referred to as the Services), as appropriate.

During formal consultation, the Services use the information in EPA's final biological evaluation to inform their biological opinions. While EPA has made predictions about the likelihood of jeopardy and adverse modification as part of its biological evaluation, the Services are responsible for making any final jeopardy/adverse modification determinations. If the

Services determine in their final biological opinions that additional mitigations are necessary to address any jeopardy or adverse modification determination or to address any incidental take, then EPA will work with the registrant to ensure that any necessary registration or labeling changes are made.

To read more about the proposed registration of isocycloseram and to comment, see docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0641 at www.regulations.gov. The public comment period will be open for 30 days, closing on June 10, 2025.

(EPA, May 9, 2025)
https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-proposed-registration-new-active-ingredient-isocycloseram

EPA RELEASES STRATEGY TO BETTER PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES FROM INSECTICIDES USING COMMONSENSE PRACTICES, PROVIDES FLEXIBILITIES TO STATES AND GROWERS

Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Insecticide Strategy that identifies practical protections for federally endangered and threatened species from the use of insecticides, while providing flexibility for pesticide users and growers. The Strategy identifies mitigations aimed at protecting more than 900 species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that EPA considers when it registers a new insecticide or reevaluates an existing one.

"Today's action is another example of how protecting our environment and safeguarding our economy can go hand in hand," ***said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin****. "We have found commonsense ways to keep endangered species safe that won't place unneeded burden on the growers who rely on these tools for their livelihood, and which are necessary to ensure a safe and plentiful food supply. We are committed to ensuring the agriculture community has the tools they need to protect our country, especially our food supply, from pests and diseases."*

"American agriculture demonstrates that production and stewardship go hand in hand," ***said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.*** *"Thank you to Administrator Zeldin for working towards unleashing regulatory burdens for American farmers & ranchers with the release of this final insecticide strategy today. This strategy provides much needed improvements that will undoubtedly better protect U.S homegrown crops from pests and diseases. We look forward to continued partnership with EPA to ensure our growers continue to have the crop protection tools and flexibility needed to feed, fuel, and clothe our nation and the world."*

"EPA's numerous pragmatic improvements to the draft Insecticide Strategy have created a final strategy that can be better implemented by applicators while also protecting threatened and endangered species. We are grateful EPA has crafted this strategy by listening to, among others, constructive feedback from state agriculture departments, as they are the lead agency tasked with implementing and enforcing pesticide regulations in 43 states as well as the territory of Puerto Rico. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is eager to continue to work with EPA to ensure state lead agencies have the resources and clarity to meaningfully enforce this strategy," ***said National Association of State Departments of Agriculture CEO Ted McKinney.***

"Farmers are dedicated to responsibly using pesticides, and frequent updates to the pesticide strategies are important to ensure the health and safety of America's families. EPA understands there cannot be an effective conservation strategy as a nation without a meaningful partnership with farmers and ranchers. As we evaluate the final strategy in full, we urge EPA to continue to refine and improve upon the plan to enable farmers to grow healthy food for the nation while caring for, and improving, the natural resources they've been entrusted with," ***said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.***

"The American Soybean Association appreciates EPA for incorporating common sense improvements into its Insecticide Strategy, especially with little time to do so

before its court deadline. These enhancements will help make Endangered Species Act implementation easier for U.S. farmers; however, more work remains to be done, including reforming how EPA assesses risks to species to ensure the process is using the best available science. ASA thanks EPA for its progress to date and looks forward to working with the agency to advance additional improvements in the days ahead," ***said American Soybean Association President and Kentucky Soybean Farmer Caleb Ragland.***

"We are appreciative of the EPA's efforts to identify commonsense ways of protecting endangered species from insecticides," ***said National Corn Growers Association President and Illinois Farmer Kenneth Hartman Jr.*** *"Our growers support the agency's approach to providing mitigation relief through enhanced conservation processes that give growers more credit for their participation than was initially proposed. We look forward to continued dialogue with the EPA as we move forward on the path to protect species as well as the food, feed and fuel supply."*

"We look forward to reviewing EPA's Insecticide Strategy and appreciate the Agency's continued efforts to engage stakeholders on mitigations that support fresh produce growers' ability to produce the healthy and nutritious food Americans require, while being protective of threatened and endangered species. We commit to working collaboratively with EPA to support this evolving effort and ensure that the strategy rewards grower innovations to reduce risk to species," ***said International Fresh Produce Association Vice President for U.S. Government Relations Rebeckah Adcock.***

"The National Cotton Council thanks the administration for listening to America's farmers in updating the EPA Insecticide Strategy. By updating buffer distances, tailoring mitigation to real-world conditions, and recognizing conservation efforts, the new strategy strengthens environmental protections without compromising our nation's safe and secure supply of food, feed and fiber," ***said National Cotton Council Chairman and Producer from Tunica, MS Patrick Johnson.***

"USA Rice applauds EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's willingness to listen to the concerns of America's rice farmers and his commitment to developing a more practical, balanced Endangered Species Act Insecticide Strategy. We are particularly appreciative that Administrator Zeldin is improving these strategies with the goals of both protecting species, as well as the livelihoods of farmers. The revised strategy reflects the EPA's growing recognition of the real-world impacts of regulations at the field level and its efforts to provide the flexibility farmers need to comply. We are likewise optimistic that in the revised strategy, EPA is modifying buffer distance requirements to reflect the mitigating benefits of the technologies that have been developed and implemented by the agricultural sector to reduce spray drift. USA Rice looks forward to continuing to work closely with Administrator Zeldin and the EPA to ensure future policies remain grounded in practicality and science," ***said USA Rice Regulatory Affairs and Food Safety Committee Chairman and Arkansas Rice Farmer David Petter.***

Earlier this year, Administrator Zeldin announced his Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative to advance the agency's core mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the American economy. Specifically, this Strategy advances Pillar Three: "permitting reform, cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnership." The final Strategy is the culmination of continued communication between EPA, its federal partners including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and FWS, and other stakeholders.

EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to modify and update these documents as additional information becomes available. In addition, EPA anticipates continued engagement with stakeholders, including our federal and state partners, to ensure effective implementation of the Strategy.

Read the final Insecticide Strategy. The Insecticide Strategy and accompanying support documents, including a Response to Comments document and an updated Ecological Mitigation Support Document describing mitigations and supporting data that inform implementation of both the herbicide and insecticide strategies, will be available on Regulations.gov in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0299.

Background

The draft Insecticide Strategy was released in July 2024 and was followed by a 60-day public comment period during which more than 26,000 comments were received, with over 230 unique comments. In response to information provided through the public comments, EPA made several changes in the final Strategy, supported by scientific analyses, to provide greater flexibility and options for the agricultural community, while ensuring that endangered species are protected. Some of the science-based modifications include:

- Reducing buffer distances across all application methods;
- Providing credit for any reduction in the proportion of a treated field for ground applications;
- Developing a process to qualify conservation programs that will give growers more credit for being part of a conservation program than initially proposed;
- Developing a process to qualify external parties that would assess a grower's farms and determine the existing mitigation points that could be achieved by practices a grower already has in place;
- Updating key data sources and identification of invertebrate species that may occur on agricultural fields; and

Adding a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) group for generalist species that reside in wetlands to reduce mitigations applied outside of wetland habitats.

(EPA, April 29, 2025)
https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-strategy-better-protect-endangered-species-insecticides-using-commonsense

TRUMP FTC CONTINUES PESTICIDE LAWSUIT

Even with change in administration, the Federal Trade Commission and 12 state attorneys general are moving forward on a lawsuit filed by the Biden administration in 2022, alleging pesticide manufacturers Syngenta Crop Protection and Corteva Inc. paid distributors to block competitors from selling less-expensive generic products to farmers.

Since the case was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, there's been a back and forth on case discovery that is getting closer to wrapping up.

The original complaint alleged the companies run so-called "loyalty programs" in which distributors are paid only if they limit business with competing manufacturers. The FTC was joined in the complaint by attorneys general in California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin. Since the original complaint, attorneys general from Tennessee and Washington joined the lawsuit.

The court set a deadline to complete discovery for Nov. 21, 2025.

The plaintiffs asked for a myriad of documents from Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Syngenta Corporation and Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC related to their crop protection products.

That includes:

-- Loyalty programs and exclusivity conditions.

-- Sales and pricing data from 2002 to the present.

-- Communications and agreements with distributors, retailers and competitors.

-- Internal analysis on the effects of loyalty programs on competition, pricing and profitability.

-- Legal documents related to litigation and investigations.

-- Technical data about product formulations, manufacturing processes and regulatory registrations.

In a joint status report filed with the court at the end of March, all sides cancelled an April 4 status conference because there were no outstanding discovery disputes for the court to resolve.

"Government and MDL plaintiffs are in the process of analyzing and reviewing defendants' document productions and responses to plaintiffs' written discovery requests and intend to meet and confer with defendants concerning any deficiencies with respect thereto in the near future," the status report said.

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, is the company formed as part of a merger between DuPont and Dow Chemical Company.

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.

In a 2022 news release, the FTC said the companies were "boxing out the competition" which allows them to "keep charging such high prices that, even after compensating the distributors, they can maintain a large profit margin."

The FTC alleges the distributors pass high prices on to farmers and ultimately to consumers.

The FTC said when a company creates a new pesticide 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," FTC said. "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."

Syngenta told DTN at the time that it "strongly disagrees with the FTC's complaint" and believes it is "contrary to the facts and the law and is without merit."

Corteva said in a statement that the company believes there is "no basis" for the complaint and that the FTC's case "faces significant hurdles on both the facts and the law."

"Corteva's marketing programs, contrary to the FTC's assertion that they block generics from entering the market, facilitate the company's pro-competitive mission of providing innovative products, services, support and stewardship to customers through Corteva's network of distributors and retailers," the company said.

The FTC said the complaint was part of a "broader push to unlock competition and innovation in the American economy" as well as to "protect consumers and small businesses and crack down on unfair tactics by dominant companies."

The complaint targets six crop-protection active ingredients including azoxystrobin, a fungicide; and mesotrione and metolachlor, both herbicides. It also lists the herbicide rimsulfuron and the insecticide and nematicide oxamyl, as well as the herbicide acetochlor.

(Progressive Farmer, May 8, 2025)
https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2025/05/08/ftc-pesticide-antitrust-lawsuit

END OF THE LINE FOR ROUNDUP? BAYER SIGNALS GLYPHOSATE'S FINAL ACT MAY BE NEAR

Could the agricultural industry soon se the sun set on **Bayer's** **Roundup** brand of **glyphosate**? Based upon the evidence, it certainly seems possible.

But before getting into this speculation, some reflection is in order. Across the agricultural landscape, perhaps no other single product has been as canonized and demonized as glyphosate. In agricultural circles, this **herbicide** was a gamechanger. It helped to control many different varieties of weeds, improving crop yields along the way, and spawned an entire class of row crops, the Roundup Ready brand. From the brand's widespread market explosion in the mid-1990s through today, glyphosate has become a mainstay of U.S. agriculture, with growers applying an estimated 300 million pounds of glyphosate to their fields each year, according to data from the **U.S. Geological Survey**.

Despite achieving this importance in agriculture, glyphosate and the biotech crops it collaborated with have been readily demonized by portions of the general public. Special interest groups have dubbed biotech crops as "Frankenfoods," calling into question their safety. Likewise, despite numerous governmental safety studies being conducted over the decades, many people claim regularly using glyphosate caused them to develop certain forms of cancer. This has led to an unending string of lawsuits and jury judgements against the herbicide over the past few years.

In particular, the maker of Roundup glyphosate has borne the brunt of this negativity. For several years, this was Monsanto — a company that John Q. Public has often hated for some reason (remember the anti-aspartame campaign against the company's NutraSweet brand?) And when **Monsanto was acquired by Bayer** in 2018, this negativity continued, with opponents often still employing the Monsanto name.

Given the numbers, it's only natural that Bayer has been the target of this battle in court. According to the data, the company produces about 40% of the world's glyphosate. Thus far, Bayer has set aside more than $16 billion for glyphosate settlements. And it estimated that there are 67,000 lawsuits still pending.

It is perhaps all this demonization of glyphosate that led to Bayer CEO Bill Anderson to hint that Roundup's time in the company's product portfolio might be coming to an end. Since taking over as CEO in 2023, Anderson has said one of his goals is to get the glyphosate litigation under control by 2026. Exiting glyphosate might be a first step towards this.

"We're pretty much reaching the end of the road," said Anderson in a recent *Wall Street Journal* interview. "We're talking months, not years."

Still, there have been a few recent developments that might yet save Bayer's Roundup glyphosate. In April, North Dakota enacted HB 1318, a law that reinforced the authority of EPA's science-based rulings that crop protection products are safe when used as directed. This would negate the need for additional local or state safety labels to be applied to products such as glyphosate — which has been a key component of many lawsuits against the herbicide. And Bayer itself has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to address this federal vs. state safety label issue when it comes to glyphosate.

So just maybe, Bayer's Roundup brand will live to see another growing season or two.

(CropLife, June 2, 2025)
https://www.croplife.com/editorial/eric_sfiligoj/end-of-the-line-for-roundup-bayer-signals-glyphosates-final-act-may-be-near/

AG GROUPS SEEK PESTICIDE LABELING LAW

Agricultural groups are asking Congress to reaffirm federal authority over pesticide labeling requirements by passing the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act.

In a letter sent Wednesday to House and Senate leaders, 365 groups laid out their growing concerns that "some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)," the groups stated.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes EPA as the authority for making decisions on how pesticides should be labeled and used. As the letter noted, states are

permitted to regulate the sale and use under FIFRA but are preempted from creating additional labeling requirements or requiring different labels and packaging.

"Nevertheless, in recent years, we have seen actions from states that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety," the groups wrote to lawmakers.

Those moves by states risk creating an "inconsistent patchwork of state pesticide labels" that can complicate sales and access to crop-protection tools. The labeling demands from states also risk jeopardizing public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulations, the groups stated.

The letter added, "Growers and users need reaffirmation from Congress that while states have authority to regulate the sale and use of pesticides within their jurisdiction, they cannot impose labeling or packaging requirements in addition or different from the scientific conclusions of the EPA."

PETITIONED EPA

Eleven attorneys general from Republican-led states -- Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and South Carolina -- petitioned EPA in January to amend FIFRA to prevent states from requiring labels inconsistent with EPA's findings, such as a pesticide's likelihood to cause cancer, birth defects or reproductive harm. The attorneys general said such labels by states should be considered as misbranding the product.

A lot of the complaints go back to California and the decision in 2017 to require warning labels for pesticides such as glyphosate. California listed glyphosate as a known carcinogen but faced immediate legal challenges. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2023 blocked California from enforcing the warning label.

Agricultural groups filed an amicus brief earlier this month asking the Supeme Court to hear a petition from Bayer/Monsanto in one of its cases tied to more than 100,000 plaintiffs across the country suing Bayer for not warning people that glyphosate causes cancer. Bayer is appealing a ruling against it by a state court in Missouri. The case, Monsanto v Durnell, was filed with the Supreme Court back in April. Beyond agricultural groups, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others have also weighed in so far, arguing that upholding such state-level claims would preempt federal authority.

WANT CLARITY

Caleb Ragland, a Kentucky farmer and president of the American Soybean Association, said agricultural groups are taking an "all of the above" approach right now to bring some clarity to spelling out federal authority over pesticide labels and liability.

"Unless there is clarity, we're worried manufacturers could exit the market and leave farmers without much-needed tools needed to protect crops and provide affordable food for consumers," Ragland said.

Bayer executives have already suggested the company could stop manufacturing products such as Roundup without some relief from the litigation it faces.

States also have been debating bills that would seek to limit legal liability for cancer-related litigation and spell out that state law aligns with EPA requirements. North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong (R) signed such a bill back in April and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) signed a similar law earlier this month.

UNCERTAINTY FOR AGRICULTURE

Without action, Congress risks creating uncertainty for agriculture. "The ability of farmers, land managers, and other users to produce an abundant food, feed, and fiber supply, combat public health threats, implement important conservation practices, and maintain vital transportation and utility infrastructure will be significantly impaired."

All of that could risk higher food prices, and the farm groups state, "Important infrastructure will fall into disrepair; our population will be increasingly vulnerable to vector-bone diseases; and our ability to combat climate change and other environmental challenges will be undermined."

The Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act was introduced in 2023 by Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., and Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif. The bill only had six other co-sponsors.

The agricultural groups stated, "Congressional action on this important matter will ensure our nation's farmers and other users have reliable access to these vital tools in the years to come."

It should be noted the letter from 365 farm and agribusiness groups comes less than a week after the Trump administration released its initial "Make America Healthy Again" report. As DTN reported, the report "calls out the potential hazards of glyphosate-based Roundup while saying a balanced approach is needed between improving pesticide safety in general and the needs of farmers."

The National Association of Counties (NACO) in February urged its members to oppose the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act and prevent it from being added to the next farm bill, stating the bill would undermine local authority. NACO noted hundreds of counties across the country set standards for pesticides that go beyond FIFRA, "including restricting pesticide use around schools and parks, protecting drinking water supplies and implementing safety guidelines for workers."

(Progressive Farmer, May 28, 2025)
https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2025/05/28/farm-groups-press-congress-reaffirm

UC RIVERSIDE FINDS CHEMICAL THAT HALTS TERMITE EXOSKELETON GROWTH

Drywood termites, the ones that hide in wooden structures, molt about seven times in their lives. UC Riverside researchers have found a chemical preventing them from growing new exoskeletons.

The chemical, bistrifluron, and its ability to kill about 95 percent of a termite colony without off-target effects on mammals, are documented in a paper published in the Journal of Economic Entomology.

“This chemical is more environmentally friendly than ones traditionally used for drywood termite infestations,” said Nicholas Poulos, corresponding author of the paper and a doctoral student in UCR’s Department of Entomology. “It’s specific to insects and can’t harm humans.”

Unlike humans with skeletons located inside their flesh, termites have exoskeletons on the outside that protect them from the elements. The main component of these external skeletons is chitin, which is also found in fungal cell walls, fish scales, and the beaks of squids and

octopi. Chitin also provides mechanical strength for insect exoskeletons, making them suitable as armor as well as sites for muscle attachment.

As termites are getting ready to molt, something they must do in order to grow, they also produce chitin to create the new exoskeleton. Bistrifluron prevents them from doing so.

“Once the termites reach a certain stage, they have to molt. They cannot avoid that,” said Dong-Hwan Choe, UCR entomology professor and senior paper author. “With a lethal dose of this chemical, they’ll try to shed their old exoskeleton but won’t have a new one ready to protect them.”

The researchers observed that bistrifluron initially slows the termites down, reducing their feeding activity. Eventually it prevents them from molting, and they die. This is one of the first studies, Choe said, that looks at the impact of chitin-inhibiting chemicals on drywood termites.

“It’s been successfully used on subterranean termites, which are also important structural pests,” Choe said. “But native western drywood termites are also important, especially in California.”

As the termites eat the treated wood, they also spread the chemical to other members of the colony. Full collapse happens in about two months, which is slower than other methods but carries certain advantages in addition to lower toxicity.

“We believe this method of spot treatment can kill a larger colony and spread more easily than current termite control methods,” Choe said. “You don’t have to apply too much to get a very good result. The chitin synthesis inhibitors show promise as localized treatment for drywood termites.”

Previously, the Choe laboratory discovered a potent yet nontoxic way to lure western drywood termites to their doom. Pinene, a pleasant-smelling chemical released by forest trees, reminds the insects of their food. They follow the scent to wood treated with insecticide.

“We saw significant differences in the death rates using insecticide alone versus the insecticide plus pinene,” said Choe. “Without pinene, we got about 70% mortality. When we added it in, it was over 95%.

Moving forward, the researchers are looking into ways to make bistrifluron easier to apply to wood. For the research described in the paper, the chemical was dissolved in acetone and applied to wood. However, in real life, this solvent isn’t desirable because it is flammable and smells bad.

“We are working to make it more feasible for practical application in real life scenarios,” Poulos said.

Property owners will likely welcome the innovation, as this species of termite causes a great deal of damage. They are endemic to northern Mexico and California, but as the climate warms, their range is expanding north to areas they did not previously inhabit.

“As we move lumber around the world, the termites are constantly transported to new locations. If they find the climate there

acceptable, the problem will spread," Choe said. "In areas where these termites are common, it's just a matter of time before homes are infested, so this study is a good initial step toward alternative strategies for controlling them."

(PCT, May 13, 2025)
https://www.pctonline.com/news/uc-riverside-researchers-discover-new-chemical-to-revent-termites-new-exoskeleton/

CEU Meetings

Please note that some of these meetings are virtual using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Please contact the meeting host directly if you have any questions.

Date: June 5, 2025
Title: Green Country Livestock Field Day
Location: Contact for location
Contact: Brian Pugh (918)-686-7800

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1a
2	Private
2	10

Date: June 5, 2025
Title: Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association Annual Conference
Location: Glenpool Conference Center
Contact: Becky L Carroll (405)-744-6139
https://www.okpecangrowers.com/annual-convention

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1a
2	Private
2	10

Date: June 6, 2025
Title: Payne Co Pasture Tour
Location: Contact Payne County Ext. for location
Contact: Jennifer Kay Patterson (405)-747-8320
https://extension.okstate.edu/county/payne/

CEU's:	Category(s):
3	1a
3	Private
3	10

Date: June 27, 2025
Title: Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference
Location: OSU Okla county Extension
Contact: Julia Laughlin (405)-640-9363
https://extension.okstate.edu/county/oklahoma/

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	3a
2	10

Date: November 10, 2025
Title: ECKROAT SEED COMPANY Interactive Sprayer Calibration
Location: Contact for location
Contact: Mike Link (405)-317-8484

CEU's:	Category(s):
1	3a

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/

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

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

ODAFF Test Information

Testing will be done at testing centers in multiple locations around the state by PSI Sevices 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 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

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please email or call:
Kevin Shelton
405-744-1060 kevin.shelton@okstate.edu or

Charles Luper
405-744-5808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

Pesticide Safety Education Program