



May 2019

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL by Glenn Luedke

EPA

EPA conducted a Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee webinar in mid-May and discussed items in reference to the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). These items included new programming, reducing the 189 categories covered to 212 categories, changing the language in the dialogue to coincide with the current time frame, streamlining wording on labeling and collect new information regarding safety in order to do a re-write of that section. It was reported there is a big gap between EPA and OSHA safety training guidelines. In addition, it was requested that EPA provide an evaluation of how funds, as well as set aside funds were spent and provide detail of what, if any surpluses were reported and what eventually happens with surplus funds.

The Pesticide Policy Coalition (PPC) reports that the following anti-technology bills have been introduced in the 116th Congress:

- H.R. 230: Ban Toxic Pesticides Act of 2019 (cancel the registration of chlorpyrifos). The bill currently has 89 co-sponsors.
- H.R. 1337: Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2019 (cancel the registrations of any pesticides containing imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, acetamiprid, sulfoxaflor, flupyradifurone or fipronil). The bill currently has 44 co-sponsors.
- H.R. 1783: Keep Food Safe from Glyphosate Act of 2019. The bill would require the USDA (through the Pesticide Data Program) to annually test fruits vegetables and other commonly consumed foods for glyphosate residue. The bill would also ban the practice of spraying glyphosate as a pre-harvest drying agent.
- S. 921: Protect Children, Farmers and Farmworkers from Nerve Agent Pesticides Act of 2019 (prohibits the use of chlorpyrifos on food and prohibits the registration of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos). The bill currently has 13 co-sponsors.

USDA

The USDA reports that it has dropped its "Preliminary" Research Disclaimer Policy and will no longer require certain reports to include language noting the findings are "preliminary". The policy was put into effect in 2018 and received substantial criticism from scientists and advocates as a way of diluting unflattering data from USDA experts. The new verbiage reads "The findings and conclusions in this publication/presentation/report are those of the author(s)

and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy".

CONSOLIDATION IN AGRICULTURE

The Center for American Progress has requested the USDA establish an independent task force that would be charged with maintaining competitive markets and protecting ag producers from the harms of consolidation. It is expected the proposal would receive a very positive reception on Capitol Hill. One related bill temporarily bans future ag mergers until Congress rewrites antitrust laws.

PESTICIDE POLICY COALITION (PPC)

During a May 2019 PPC meeting, Keith Jones, Staff Assistant for the House Ag Committee, outlined the challenges facing the 116th Congress, and in particular, agriculture issues. He noted the following challenge: The percentage of city/urban based Congressional members keeps increasing and they do not understand pesticides, and how they work, etc. The challenge has become "How do we communicate to this already skeptical group?" Staff assistants are much younger and this makes the dialogue more difficult. One suggestion was to possibly tie the dialogue to public health issues.

EXCITING CHANGES FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND AG PRO EXPO by Allison Jones

Starting in 2020, Annual Meeting attendees will have extra time to visit exhibitors during the AG PRO EXPO. The exhibit hall will now open at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22 and continue through the first refreshment break on Friday, January 24 at 10:45 a.m. Exhibitors will set up Wednesday morning and then welcome attendees after they pick up their registration packets and between committee meetings which will be located near the exhibit hall. Refreshments will be served.

Another exciting change is that the roundtable sessions have been moved to earlier in the week. Instead of the Saturday morning breakfasts/roundtable sessions, these will be on Friday, January 24 at 4:15 p.m. This will allow more exhibitors and attendees to attend these important and informative sessions. The Executive Board will continue to meet on Saturday.

The venue for the 2020 meeting has changed. Due to construction at the Marriott RiverCenter, the 2020 Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO will be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio and the adjoining Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (<https://bit.ly/2HmsmBu> and www.sahbgcc.com/). Attendees will enjoy both facilities located on the famous Riverwalk. Reservations under the NAICC room block will be available later this summer. Remember to reserve your room in the NAICC room block to save money and support the association. Our negotiated group rate is almost \$100 LESS than the regular rate at the Hyatt and \$135 less than neighboring hotels!

Hot! Topics by Lisa Wheelock-Roney

If you have any hot topics that you would like to appear in the newsletter or a News Short, please email to Lisa at lwheelock@greatlakesag.com. What is important to one NAICC member is important to the organization!

Enjoy the growing season!

NAICC

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