



**ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA**
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EPA Announcements of Interest to ESA Members

Sources: Regulations.gov, epa.gov, and EPA Weekly Digest Bulletin

Updates from EPA

EPA's Draft Policy to Strengthen Scientific Integrity Pesticide Program

- In January, EPA released the draft of the policy to include adopting a new Federal definition of scientific integrity and improving the culture of scientific integrity at the Agency. More information can be found on the website of Scientific Integrity at: <https://www.epa.gov/scientific-integrity>.
- Information about the policy and submission of comments can be done at: [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

EPA and USDA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed to protect endangered species and support sustainable agriculture.

- A MOU signed in February listed activities in response to stakeholder suggestions to protect endangered species and to be practically implemented. The MOU can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/epa-usda-mou.pdf>

Updates on EPA's approach to implementing ESA.

- EPA will not be implementing the Vulnerable Species Pilot (with draft mitigation for 27 species). Feedback received indicated that improvements need to be made to the species maps.

EPA is requesting input on the design of assistance agreements for a national farmworker training and education program.

- EPA is seeking public input on the design of a new National Farmworker Training and Education Program (NFTEP) on pesticide safety. The NFTEP is a grant program funded through the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5) and will support activities such as pesticide safety training, materials development, and outreach to farmworkers.
- Deadline for submission of comments and can be accessed at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0643>.

Registration and registration review of insecticides

EPA update on use of Chlorpyrifos

- On November 2, 2023, the Eighth Circuit issued a ruling vacating EPA's final rule revoking all food tolerances of chlorpyrifos and remanding the matter to EPA for further proceedings. The Eighth Circuit's decision stated that EPA should have considered modification of tolerances in addition to complete revocation and noted that the Agency had "identified 11 specific candidates" of food and feed crop uses whose tolerances could be so modified in a Preliminary Interim Decision EPA issued in 2020. Consequently, the Agency expects to propose a new rule to revoke the tolerances associated with all, but the 11 uses referenced by the court. EPA is also engaged in discussions with the registrants to further reduce exposures associated with the 11 uses of chlorpyrifos that were referenced by the Eighth Circuit.
- Information about EPA actions and regulations history of chlorpyrifos can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/chlorpyrifos>
- On December 28, 2023, the Code of Federal Regulations was changed by EPA to reflect the Eighth Circuit's decision on the restrictions on chlorpyrifos decision. Currently, farmers can use registered chlorpyrifos on all crops with reinstated tolerances, following the directions for use on the labels and still respecting state restrictions.
- Information about the reinstated tolerances was published 02/05/2024 and can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/05/2024-02153/chlorpyrifos-reinstatement-of-tolerances>
- A discussion to reduce exposures associated with the 11 crops and uses (alfalfa, apple, asparagus, cherry (tart), citrus, cotton, peach, soybean, strawberry, sugar beet, wheat (spring and winter) has been conducted. Important to say that any final cancellation remains in place.

EPA has updated the annual pesticide registration maintenance fee materials.

- All section 3 and section 24(c) registrations are subject to an annual maintenance fee described in FIFRA Section 4(i)(1). The amount of this fee varies from year to year depending on the authorizing legislation. The fee per product varies because the fee is dependent upon the projected number of products for which registrants will pay this fee.
- The webpage with fee tables can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-12/2024-mfee-tables.pdf>.

Coordinate efforts to support the beekeeping community.

- Coordinating efforts have been dedicated to addressing the nationwide threat of varroa mites. Varroa mites are parasites that feed on honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and transmit numerous honey bee viruses, both of which lead to reduced lifespan of bees. The health and longevity of a honey bee colony can be critically damaged by an infestation of Varroa mites. Once infested, if left untreated, the colony will likely die.

- Support in the registration of new options of management for this pest is critical for beekeeping while the pesticides need to be submitted to a robust evaluation and determines that uses of these products will not pose any unreasonable adverse effects when used according to the label instructions.
- More information can be found at: [Advisory on the Applicability of FIFRA and FFDCA for Substances used to Control Varroa Mites in Beehives | US EPA](#).