

ESA SME Liaison to EPA OPP Report for February 2021

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A phone meeting was held on January 27th with EPA's staff scientist Kelly Tindall who works with the ESA SME. Other attendees were Erin Cadwalader and Chris Stelzig. The main subject matter was discussion of a symposium involving EPA staff to explain the ins and outs of the pesticide registration process and how risk assessment is used. A similar symposium was held in conjunction with the last Weed Science Society of America national meeting. One of the objectives, besides reviewing the entire regulatory process for registration, would be to also cover what types of data (besides toxicological information) EPA needs for use, efficacy, and benefits. One outcome of the meeting was a decision to delay a cooperative symposium until ESA meets in the Washington DC area in 2022. Another idea that surfaced was a possible webinar prior to the national meeting, fitted within an hour timeframe, that would be advertised to society members.

EPA has made the following public announcements of possible interest to ESA members.

EPA is extending the public comment period on the draft risk assessments (DRAs) and proposed interim decision (PID) for chlorpyrifos to give the public and stakeholders more time to review and comment. The current comment period was set to close on February 5, 2021, and EPA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days. Comments can be submitted through **March 7, 2021**, to the chlorpyrifos registration review docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0850 on www.regulations.gov.

(Link to the announcement: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-chlorpyrifos-draft-risk-assessments-and-proposed-interim-decision>)

During the month of February, the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrates National Pesticide Safety Education Month** to raise awareness for pesticide safety education and share best practices for using pesticides safely in and around your home.

(Link to the announcement: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-celebrates-national-pesticide-safety-education-month>)

EPA Takes Aggressive Actions Against Citrus Greening While Maintaining Public Health and Environmental Protections (Announced on Jan 12, 2021. EPA is registering one technical product, a supplemental label, and one new end-use product for the insecticide **aldicarb** for use on oranges and grapefruit in Florida. The registration limits the product's sale and distribution to an amount allowing up to 100,000 acres in Florida to be treated each application season (Nov. 15-April 30) for three growing seasons, expiring on April 30, 2023. The product label also requires specific application restrictions to help protect potential runoff and leaching to drinking water sources. EPA is also amending one technical and one end-use product for **streptomycin**, an antibiotic derived from the bacterium *Streptomyces griseus*, to be used on citrus crop group 10-10, which includes varieties of orange, grapefruit, lemon, and lime. These registrations will be time limited to seven years, expiring on Jan. 12, 2028. Streptomycin suppresses HLB disease and will aid resistance management of citrus canker because it provides a different mode of action than registered alternatives. To view the final decisions, see docket number EPA HQ-OPP-2020-0600 at regulations.gov for aldicarb and docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0067 for streptomycin. Direct links for aldicarb decision doc: <https://beta.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0600-0023>
Link to streptomycin docs: <https://beta.regulations.gov/search?filter=EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0067>

EPA Finalizes Guidance to Waive Toxicity Tests on Animal Skin:

Guidance is expected to save up to 750 animals from unnecessary testing annually.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-guidance-waive-toxicity-tests-animal-skin>

EPA Releases Revised Pesticide Test Guidelines for Fire Ants and Invertebrate Pests of Pets:

These revised test guidelines update, clarify, and expand upon the original guidelines, which EPA published in 1998. They provide more detailed recommendations of testing methods and statistical analyses, and include testing designs for newer product types. Public comments and review from the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel inform the revisions.

See <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/guidance-efficacy-testing-pesticides-targeting-certain-invertebrate-pests> for “Guidance on Efficacy Testing for Pesticides Targeting Certain Invertebrate Pests”. View the series 810 test guidelines, including the updated series 810.3100 guideline for fire ants and 810.3300 for invertebrate pests of pets (<https://www.epa.gov/test-guidelines-pesticides-and-toxic-substances/treatments-imported-fire-ants-and-efficacy-topically>).