

PESTICIDE REREGISTRATION

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ABSTRACT

Pesticide registration is the domain of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA). Registration is intended to maximize the benefits from pesticide use while minimizing the risks to users, the food supply and the environment. Pesticide registration is a requirement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide act, (FIFRA), which was last revised in 1996 by the Food Quality Protection Act, (FQPA). FQPA made some big changes in FIFRA, revising the law from a risk/benefit approach to a de minimis risk, (meaning to minimize risks to persons from the food supply) process for establishing tolerances for pesticides in food and for mitigating risks from registered pesticides. One of the biggest tasks assigned to EPA was to reregister all pesticide active ingredients and review their uses within 10 years.

EPA is currently on track to complete review of all active ingredients by the end of this year, at which time a new process of rereview will begin. The impact to users of pesticides has been and will continue to be dealing with new label provisions that are designed to mitigate the risks to users and the environment. The presentation will discuss how reregistration is completed, what role states or the general public can play in reregistration decisions, and what applicators should watch for on labels as reregistration decisions are implemented.

Rereview of pesticides will be required at least once every 15 years in the future, but EPA has not decided whether the schedule will be driven by need, or will be done chronologically. EPA has instituted cumulative reviews for active ingredients that have a similar mode of action, such as the cumulative review recently completed for the Organophosphate insecticides. The rereview process and reregistration will impact what crops can be treated with individual pesticides and how the pesticides must be used. Applicators should expect more labels to have maximum annual application rates and more complex labeling aimed at preventing damage from pesticide use. The recent decisions on 2,4-D will be presented and discussed as an example of how EPA registration activities will impact pesticide users.

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