



E-Newsletter!

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It is hoped this form of delivery will be easy to use and read, accessed by more readers, and reduce printing/mailling costs so that the savings can be used elsewhere within our programs.

The e-version of this newsletter contains a hyperlinked table of contents and bookmarks, hyperlinks to much of the information presented, and can be seen in color. See the link above on how to subscribe to take advantage of this service, as well as help us save resources.

Update on Dicamba: Registration and Use on Soybeans in 2018

Tim Creger, NDA Pesticide/Fertilizer Program Manager

Dicamba registration might be the biggest issue the Pesticide Program has faced since the program began in 1994. Having been directly involved in the administration of Pesticide Program since the enabling legislation was signed by Governor Ben Nelson in 1993, nothing compares to what our agency and many soybean farmers experienced this past summer. The issues and concerns need to be fully understood in order for everyone to move into the 2018 growing season with their eyes wide open.

Perhaps the biggest question on the mind of many soybean growers is whether NDA will register the new dicamba herbicide formulations for 2018. The answer is yes, we have notified all three registrants (DuPont, BASF and Monsanto) that NDA will accept their revised labels for the 2018 growing season. All three products (Xtendimax® with Vapor Grip® Technology, Fexapan® with Vapor Grip® Technology and Engenia®) were conditionally registered by EPA for two years (2017 and 2018), and NDA cannot extend that time period without EPA doing so first.

A second frequently asked question is what did NDA experience this past growing season in the way of claims or complaints of potential dicamba damage. There were over 90 claims received by NDA beginning on June 20th, and NDA was able to begin full investigations of 23 of those claims. At this time, NDA continues to review the evidence collected in the full investigations, to detect common themes which can be addressed in applicator education, which leads me to the next very important point.

(continued next page)

Inside This Issue

Changes to Dicamba Labels	2
Revisions to the Worker Protection Standard	2
Certification Requirements for Private Applicators	3
NDA Web Resources	3
DriftWatch for Applicators!	4
Flag the Technology	4
Nebraska Buffer Strip Program Funding	5
County-added Noxious Weeds	5
Native Thistles	5
Applicator PPE	5

Changes to RUP dicamba labels for late-season soybean applications

- Dicamba/auxin-specific training will be required for all applicators to purchase/use any of the RUP dicamba products;
- Label-mandated record-keeping for all users;
- Applications restricted to wind speeds between 3-10 mph;
- Applications limited to daytime hours between sunrise and sunset;
- Revised tank cleanout requirements;
- Additional requirements for sensitive crop scouting, including non-dicamba tolerant soybeans and specialty crops (see page 4 for tips).

A new "RUP Dicamba" page will be available by January, 2018, that will include a summary of these and other label changes and new information, including dealer requirements, the official dicamba-trained applicator database, the three RUP dicamba labels, a dicamba application record keeping form, an NDA dicamba technical interpretation, dicamba press releases, and links to other information and training sites. (see nda.nebraska.gov).

Recently, EPA announced an agreement with the three dicamba registrants to classify the new dicamba formulations as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs). The RUP classification will now require all applicators to possess a Nebraska Pesticide Applicator License before applying any of the three new dicamba products. For commercial and non-commercial applicators, that means your license must have the Ag Plant category (category 01). For private applicators, your license covers you for all agricultural uses. HOWEVER, there is one very important addition to applicator certification that MUST be completed before any applicator applies the RUP dicamba products, and that is the addition of dicamba/auxin-specific training.

Dicamba/auxin-specific training will be required for any applicator of the RUP dicamba products (private, commercial, or noncommercial). NDA is working closely with the University of Nebraska Pesticide Safety Education Program to develop NDA-authorized training, and NDA has notified the three dicamba registrants of our intention to require the UNL training components into all trainings offered in Nebraska. It will be the requirement of the applicator to obtain this training before they can apply the RUP dicamba. It will also be the responsibility of all pesticide dealers selling RUP dicamba to make sure any sales of RUP dicamba are to currently-licensed applicators who have taken the dicamba/auxin-specific training. NDA will maintain a database of all properly trained applicators, which will be accessible to dealers on NDA's website.

In addition to classifying the three new dicamba products as RUPs, EPA required a number of changes to the labels for the 2018 growing season. The labels for the dicamba products now have mandatory record keeping, a reduced maximum wind speed (from 15 miles per hour down to 10 miles per hour), limited times of day applications can be made (between sunrise and sunset), revised tank clean-out language, and a revised list of susceptible crops and sensitive sites. The full list of what has changed on the new dicamba labels is rather large, and NDA will post the changes to our website by the end of December. The dicamba/auxin-specific training now required for all applicators will also cover these changes in detail.

As NDA and soybean growers move into the 2018 growing season, it is quite likely additional information and communications on dicamba-tolerant soybeans and the use of dicamba will be released. NDA is developing a dicamba-specific messaging page on its website for any updates, press releases or revised requirements for RUP dicamba applications. Please visit our website at nda.nebraska.gov and bookmark the page so that you can quickly check it when needed.

Revisions to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

The WPS requires employers of agricultural workers (who conduct hand labor in the production of agricultural plants) and pesticide handlers (who mix, load, or apply pesticides or do other tasks involving direct contact with pesticides) to take a number of prescribed steps to minimize pesticide exposure. In late 2015, EPA published the final revised WPS rule. Compliance with many of the requirements of the revised WPS were required Jan. 2, 2017, with a few requirements not taking effect until Jan. 1, 2018. The final provisions of the revised rule that take effect on Jan. 1, 2018 are:

- Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ), a 25-100 ft. area around spray equipment where applicators must suspend the application if a person is within the AEZ
- Additional training points required for workers and handlers
- Additional information required for display of pesticide safety information

It is recommended that employers obtain the *How to Comply Manual* to ensure full compliance with all of the provisions of the revised rule. For more information about the revised WPS, the *How to Comply Manual*, and training resources, please visit pesticideresources.org.

Certification Requirements For Private Applicators

Anyone who applies a restricted-use pesticide must be licensed by NDA. There are two basic types of pesticide applicator licensing, either private or commercial. Private Applicator Certification and Licensing is required of persons who apply restricted-use pesticides in the production of an agricultural commodity on their own property or property they rent or lease. To become certified, a private applicator must attend private applicator training, complete the self-study booklet, complete the online self-study, or complete a private applicator exam. To become licensed, a private applicator must be certified and remit to NDA a \$25 fee for a three-year license. This \$25 fee is separate from what you may have paid the University for training. For answers to questions about pesticide applicator certification call the NDA at (402) 471-2351.

Certification training tips

Private applicator certification must be renewed every three years. Renewal of private applicator certification may be done by either retesting, completing the self-study booklet, completing the online self-study, or by attending a University of Nebraska applicator training program. Trainings will be held January through April. The online self-study program is available for purchase at pested.unl.edu, or you may call (800) 627-7216. Self-study booklet materials are available at local extension offices. Private applicators should bring their old license with them to training, even if it is expired. Currently-licensed applicators should receive a letter from NDA with a bar code below their name on the letter. This bar code letter should be brought to the UNL recertification meeting to help avoid filling out the longer license application. If you are new to the program or do not have the bar code letter, you will need to complete the full license application form. When filling out the full license form, it is important to remember our computer scanner cannot read ink, so using a pencil is required. Copy the information from your old license exactly as it is printed onto the license form, but make sure your current address is the one used on the form. Please contact NDA, if you have any questions about certification, licenses, or payments at (877) 800-4080. All certification classes are coordinated by the UNL Pesticide Education Office - if you have questions about initial or recertification classes please contact them at (800) 627-7612.

NDA Web Resources

The following webpages may be of interest to you. Please take a minute to see what we have to offer, and don't hesitate to call or email, if there are questions. Simply type the text in parentheses in the address line of your web browser:

Noxious Weed Program (bit.ly/NDAnoxweed2)

- Weeds of the Great Plains book order form (bit.ly/NDAnw11)

Pesticide Program (bit.ly/NDAPP)

- Nebraska Buffer Strip Program (bit.ly/NDAbuffer)
- Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter (bit.ly/NDAPPnews2)
- DriftWatch (fieldwatch.com)
- Household Hazardous Waste Directory (bit.ly/NDAhhw)
- Which Applicator License Do I Need? (bit.ly/NDAwaldin)
- Pesticide Enforcement Process Brochure (bit.ly/NDAAenfproc)
- Endangered Species Protection (bit.ly/NDAPPesp)
- Water Quality Protection (bit.ly/NDAPPPh2o)



NDA also has the Plant Health Protection Update, as well as other social/news media available. Please see bit.ly/NDAMedia3.

DriftWatch for Applicators!

There are 3 ways you can utilize this service:

- Frequently visit the Public Map (free of charge) to see:
 - All specialty crop sites
 - Most beehives (beekeepers have the option to display hives only to registered applicators)
- Register with FieldWatch as an applicator (free of charge) to see:
 - All specialty crop sites
 - **All** beehives
 - And receive email alerts when new sites are added to you area
- Member data subscription (\$100) – contact FieldWatch for more information.
 - All sites, including all beehives
 - Periodically download sites to your mapping software or receive live stream through your software provider

See more at fieldwatch.com

Flag the Technology

Given the requirements specified on ‘over the top’ dicamba product labels (see article page 1), it is appropriate for the pesticide and agriculture industries, and individual farmers to do all they can to increase communication with one another. NDA encourages the use of “Flag the Technology”, started in a few southern states:

Preferred Flag Size	
6" x 1/4" fiberglass pole with minimum 11" x 17" flag for maximum visibility	
Color Codes	
<p>RED signifies conventional varieties with no herbicide technology traits, vineyards, apiaries, orchards, vegetable fields and organic crop production. <i>Extreme caution.</i></p> 	<p>YELLOW is the color chosen for Clearfield® rice, sunflower, wheat and canola technologies, STS® soybeans¹ and INZEN grain sorghum.</p> 
<p>WHITE represents technology that is tolerant to glyphosate herbicide. (e.g., Roundup Ready, Glytol)</p> 	<p>TEAL (with White Stripes) indicates tolerance to both 2,4-D and FOP (ACCase) herbicides. The white stripes indicate tolerance to glyphosate. Where glufosinate tolerant cotton and soybean are planted, a green flag should be added to denote tolerance to glufosinate².</p> 
<p>GREEN This technology is tolerant to glufosinate.</p> 	<p>BLACK & WHITE The black and white checks indicate tolerance to both dicamba and glyphosate. A green flag should be added for cotton to denote glufosinate tolerance².</p> 

¹ Although many herbicides are in the ALS family of herbicides, crops with this technology are not tolerant to all ALS herbicides.
² Stacked technologies may require more than 1 flag.

Produced by the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences
soilcrop.tamu.edu

More information can be found in this publication by Texas A&M University (bit.ly/TAMUFlag) as well as this short video by University of Tennessee (bit.ly/UTnFlag). Flag vendors can be found by asking your local dealer or searching online for “agricultural crop marking flag”.



Currently available in
**14 states and 1
 Canadian province,
 with more to come:**



The DriftWatch infographic below can also be found at bit.ly/NDAPP.

FieldWatch
 Communication. Cooperation. Collaboration.

driftdrill™ **beecheck™**

Avoid Inadvertent Drift: View Specialty Crop and Beehive Site Locations
 Utilize DriftWatch™ and Beecheck™ to communicate more effectively with specialty crop growers to help prevent and manage drift effects. Easily locate registered sites before you spray.

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

- Step 1: Visit the Map Registry**
 Become familiar with the sites in your area and check back regularly before spraying.
- Step 2: Sign up for Free Site Alerts**
 Personalize your account to receive alerts when new sites are added to your area.
- Step 3: Communicate with Others**
 Applicators can use this information to communicate with commercial specialty crop, organic crop and beehive owners.

APPLICATORS
GROWERS

Two-Way Communication
 Use DriftWatch™ and Beecheck™ to communicate plans with growers and work out a mutual understanding.

Communication + Cooperation + Collaboration

Please consult FieldWatch to access specialty crop and beehive information to complement your ongoing stewardship activities.

SPECIALTY CROP
Estimates

Look and Be Aware
 You may see these and similar signs near approved specialty crop, organic crop and beehive sites as you are driving or working in the area. The shape of the flag and the colors indicate the type of site.

A One-Stop Shop
 Farmers and other applicators can see specialty crops and beehives in neighboring states. Aerial applicators working in these states can benefit from this one-stop shop.

Applicators can also receive mapped sites directly from select software providers or through a FieldWatch™ subscription.

NEBRASKA
 DriftWatch™ and Beecheck™ can be found online at fieldwatch.com.
 The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) monitors the DriftWatch™ website for Nebraska. For questions, contact NDA at (402) 471-2751.

Note: In order to get information on license recertification from NDA prior to your license expiration, please let NDA know when you have a change of address.

Funding Available for Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program has funding available for filter strips and riparian forest buffer strips; conservation practices placed along rivers, streams, impoundments, and wetlands to filter sediment and agrichemicals from cropland runoff. The program, which has been in operation since 1999, offers annual rental payments for these practices, and can be partnered with the USDA Continuous CRP and CREP programs for increased rental incentives. More information on rental rates and the application process can be found at bit.ly/NDAbuffer, or by contacting your local NRCS or NRD office.



Filter Strips and Pesticides

Filter strips have been shown to remove 30-60% of pesticides in field runoff, depending on site conditions (including width of filter strip, the pesticides used, field conservation practices present, runoff volume, etc)

Can remove up to

60%

or more of certain pathogens

Can remove up to

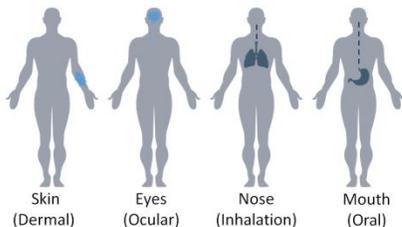
75%

or more of sediment

Did you know there are native, non-invasive thistles in Nebraska? See this recent native thistle article in the Nebraska Weed Watch newsletter to learn more about these beneficial plants bit.ly/WWs2017.

In addition, take a look at the Xerces Society's *Native Thistles: A Conservation Practitioner's Guide* (bit.ly/NatvThistle), containing resources and information on the natural history and ecology of native thistle species.

Applicator PPE



This article from UNL (bit.ly/CWm17gloves) summarizes the health effects associated with not wearing proper PPE while using or handling pesticides. These effects were found through a large national study of pesticide applicators.

Also included are recommendations for the types of gloves and proper use of gloves for pesticide applications, as well as product label examples and links to more PPE resources for protecting yourself or workers.

Routes of exposure image from pesticideresources.org

Did you know?

In addition to the 12 weed species that have been declared noxious in Nebraska, every county has the option to petition the Director of NDA to place additional weeds on the "county-added noxious weed" list. Several counties in Nebraska have county-added noxious weeds, which landowners are required to control. Those seven weed species, and the counties which have designated them, include:

Perennial Yellow Bedstraw
Cherry

Woollyleaf Bursage
Banner

Bull Thistle
Rock

Houndstongue
Dawes
Sheridan

Common Mullein
Cheyenne

Scotch Thistle
Banner Morrill
Cheyenne Scotts Bluff
Dawes Sheridan
Kimball Sioux

Field Bindweed
Banner Garden
Box Butte Morrill
Cheyenne Scotts Bluff
Dawes Sheridan
Deuel

Common Teasel
Lancaster

Cutleaf Teasel
Lancaster

See pridewma.org and neinvasives.com for more information.

**Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Program
(402) 471-2351**

**Department of Agriculture
Pesticide/Fertilizer Program
(402) 471-2351**

**Certification/License Questions:
(877) 800-4080**

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2351.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 and asking the operator to call (402) 471-2351.

Mat Habrock, Interim Director
Craig Romary, Editor

Readers are free to reprint, in whole or in part, information in this newsletter. However, NDA respectfully requests the following citation be used:

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(www.nda.nebraska.gov)*

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Online at **bit.ly/NDAPPnews2**