



# PEST SMART UPDATE

Information on EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

Update #2

On December 12, 1994 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the following press release in connection with the federal pesticide initiative announced in June 1993.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have formed a partnership with a number of groups and companies representing agricultural and non-agricultural pesticide users to promote environmental stewardship in pesticide use in the United States.

The partnership is the first under the commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in September 1993 to work jointly with pesticide user groups to develop commodity-specific initiatives toward achieving the Administration's goal of reducing the use and risks of pesticides in the United States.

"Voluntary pollution prevention has been a cornerstone of our efforts to protect human health and the environment, and this new pesticide partnership is an important step toward that goal," said Carol M. Browner, EPA Administrator. "I congratulate the companies and grower groups that are joining with us for their forward-thinking approach to environmentally-sound pesticide use practices and look forward to seeing others follow their lead."

The groups and companies that have joined the partnership include: the National Potato Council, the American Corn Growers Association, the International Apple Institute, the California Citrus Research Board, the California Pear Growers and California Pear Advisory Board, Appalachian Power, Atlantic Electric, Carolina Power & Light, Columbus Southern Power, Delmarva Power, Duke Power, Indiana

Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Kingsport Power, New York State Electric & Gas, Ohio Power, Pennsylvania Electric, Pennsylvania Power and Light, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, Wheeling Power, and Wisconsin Public Service Corp.

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In forming this partnership, the federal government agencies and the participating groups and companies agree that environmental stewardship is an integral part of pest management practices. Specifically, the partnership has agreed to commit to a number of guiding principles that will shape pest management practices. The principles are:

- Pesticide users will continue to work towards pest management practices that reduce risk to humans and the environment and will continue to work to minimize the use of pesticides where desirable and practicable.
- The groups and companies will continue to develop and implement regional environmental stewardship plans containing specific pest management

strategies that reduce risk to humans and the environment.

- In recognition of the need to maintain cost-effective pest control in the marketplace, the federal government will seek to foster, fund and promote through education, research and other means the adoption of alternative pest management technologies and practices that enhance pest management and reduce pesticide use and risk.
- The federal government shall integrate the environmental stewardship plans developed by the participating groups and companies into its agricultural and environmental policies and programs.

Many of the grower groups and utility companies have taken specific steps to demonstrate their commitment to the partnership. The grower groups have committed to more research and demonstration into Integrated Pest Management techniques and programs, the development of prediction models for more targeted and precise pesticide applications, education programs to encourage alternative pest control technologies, and cooperation with equipment manufacturers to find application techniques that maintain pest control efficacy while reducing application rates.

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The utility companies have committed to promote regional input on environmental stewardship so that a national environmental stewardship plan for utility rights-of-way can be formulated; to research IPM technologies and application methods which will lower the risk to humans and the environment; and to promote worker training on pesticide use to lower the level of risk to the workers and the environment.

Specific actions being taken by some members of the partnership are listed below.

### Steps To Be Taken By The Environmental Stewardship Partners

This section describes the specific steps that participating groups and companies have agreed to take.

#### The National Potato Council will:

- Work with the Agricultural Research Service of USDA to increase efforts to conduct field demonstrations for promising alternative pest control practices.
- Maintain its commitment to research into IPM and alternative pest control techniques including new, safer pesticides.
- Encourage its membership to adopt promising new technologies once they become viable and educate its membership through the use of newsletters and meetings.
- Work with equipment manufacturers to find better application technologies, especially where application rates are lowered with equal efficacy or a reduction in worker exposure.
- Develop an awards process for recognizing potato growers who produce a high quality crop while practicing sound environmental stewardship.

#### The American Corn Growers will:

- Promote and expand its "bottom-line" corn growing contest, which seeks to maximize a grower's profit from corn production while reducing production inputs such as pesticides.
- Maintain its commitment to research into IPM and alternative pest control techniques including new, safer pesticides.
- Encourage its membership to adopt promising new technologies once they become viable and will educate its membership through the use of newsletters and meetings.
- Work with equipment manufacturers to find better application technologies, especially where application rates are lowered with equal efficacy or a reduction in worker exposure.

**The International Apple Institute will:**

- Continue to encourage grower meetings that stress the use of IPM and develop and implement IPM training programs for county agents, consultants, scouts and growers.
- Continue to develop and utilize prediction models for more timely pesticide applications.
- Continue to develop commercial-scale IPM plots.
- Continue to develop the Western Areawide Codling Moth IPM Program in cooperation with USDA.

**The California Pear Growers and California Pear Advisory Board will:**

- Expand current IPM programs to show the benefits of biological controls -- including pheromones and insect growth regulators -- as alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides.
- Support and fund through grower and processor check-offs the Pear Pest Management Research Fund and research programs of the California Pear Advisory Board which seek safer, more efficient ways to manage pests.
- Communicate to growers promising results of research through information letters, demonstration plots, and facilitation of farmer-to-farmer discussions.

**The California Citrus Board will:**

- Commit \$628,000 during 1994-95 to research in entomology and \$118,000 in post-harvest studies, all aimed at IPM programs for California citrus with a focus on biocontrol and risk reduction.
- Provide continued research support to, and liaison with, the various citrus biocontrol districts - both public and private.
- Increase the frequency of grower meetings from approximately three per year to an average of one per month with primary focus on biocontrol, IPM programs, and risk reduction education.
- Provide the grower education programs to the California Citrus Expo, an annual two-day event. The 1995 program will focus on achieving citrus quality in the current regulatory environment which includes emphasis on reduced risk

procedures, with grower education programming in the morning and trade show exhibits and demonstrations in the afternoon.

- Involvement by the California Citrus Board and the California Citrus Quality Council in the California IPM program and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's pesticide reduction program.
- Work to develop real-time, on-farm information management systems aimed at reducing dependency on chemical use and improvement of biocontrol and cultural practice systems.
- Continue efforts to achieve enrollment of a minimum of 75% of the California citrus industry in IPM programs by the year 2000.
- Fund a research program studying the application methods for existing pesticides to reduce the risk of air pollution, groundwater pollution and exposure to humans.

**Utility Companies**

A number of utility companies, which sometimes use pesticides along power line rights-of-way and in other areas, have also joined the partnership. These companies are:

Appalachian Power, Atlantic Electric, Carolina Power & Light, Columbus Southern Power, Delmarva Power, Duke Power, Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Kingsport Power, New York State Electric & Gas, Ohio Power, Pennsylvania Electric, Pennsylvania Power & Light, The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, The Virginia Maryland Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, Wheeling Power, and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

These companies agree to:

- Promote pesticide user training and education on pesticide use technologies and pest management practices to lower the level of risk to humans and the environment.
- Continue to research and promote IPM technologies and application methods which will provide efficient vegetation management and will lower the level of risk to humans and the environment.
- Promote regional input on environmental

stewardship so that a national environmental stewardship plan for utility rights-of-way can be formulated.

#### For More Information...

For more information on the **PEST SMART UPDATE**, contact *Sherry Glick*, BEAD/OPP/EPA. If you wish to write, the address is: US EPA (7503W), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. The fax number is: 703-308-8189.

The EPA, along with USDA and FDA, is committed to expanding the **Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program** (the "Partnership"). If your organization or company would like to obtain more information on how it can become involved with the Partnership please contact *Martin Lewis*, or *Davis Bernstein*, at (703)308-8144 and (703)308-8097, respectively.



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