



New Labels Proposed for Pesticide Applications

The U.S. EPA is proposing several pesticide label changes that if enacted will affect applicators, according to a report from Dani Lightle, IR-4 Specialty Crops Pesticide Registration Research Leader for Oregon State University Extension.

The changes are being proposed to ensure protections for endangered species, Lightle said.

“EPA is realizing they are being sued a lot over product labels not protecting endangered species, and so they are working to come around the front end and put in some label requirements so they stop being dragged to court so much,” Lightle said during a presentation at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting, February 1 in Wilsonville.

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Dani Lightle

enter the application month, the EPA registration number of the material the applicator plans to use, click on a button and see if any restrictions apply. And the applicator needs to do this within six months of the application.

“There are going to be a few products at the beginning that will require you to do this,” she said.

The EPA also is proposing a “pick list” of agronomic practices to manage surface water runoff and soil erosion with the aim

of reducing offsite transport of pesticides that could impact protected or endangered species.

Among changes EPA is enacting is an online reporting system for applicators to enter data prior to an application of certain products called Bulletin Live! Two.

“The idea is that EPA can have geographic restrictions on pesticide use,” Lightle said. “So, they can protect areas around where endangered species are living, such as watersheds where a species is found.”

According to the proposal, applicators will need to identify, or spot the location of an application,

of reducing offsite transport of pesticides that could impact protected or endangered species.

“The list is supposedly on multiple labels, so once you’ve implemented this erosion or runoff label, it will be the same for multiple pesticides,” Lightle said. “They also want to provide multiple measures for growers, so that you can implement what works best for you.”

Lightle said it may be important for growers to start thinking about which runoff measures are feasible to implement on their farms and about how to incorporate them.

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Dani Lightle at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting provides an update on proposed label changes.

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“Those are all things to start thinking about now, because we are going to start to see these roll out,” Lightle said.

In some cases, NRCS funding may be available to offset implementation costs, she said.

Lightle will be holding trainings and webinars demonstrating the use of Bulletins Live! Two and explaining the “pick list” of runoff reduction measures this spring.

EPA also has proposed label changes for rodenticides, including zinc phosphide, that includes an increase of the PPE requirements. “There is going to be a glove requirement, and a half mask respirator will be required for all applications,” Lightle said.

In addition, the agency has proposed post-application follow-up language, which she characterized as “very concerning.”

“They are calling it the carcass search, collection and disposal requirement,” she said.

The proposal calls for a grower to search for carcasses four days after the first application and at intervals of one to two days for at least two weeks after the last bait application if carcasses are still being found.

Lightle said she will be asking EPA what exactly will be required for a carcass search.

“What constitutes a search is unclear to me,” she said. “Do I just look and see if there is a turkey vulture in the sky, or do I need to look under clover plants? I’m not really sure.”

New Products in IR-4 Pipeline for Clover

Three new products for use in clover seed production are making their way through the IR-4 pesticide registration process, said Dani Lightle, IR-4 Specialty Crops Pesticide Registration Research Leader.

Speaking at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting in February, Lightle said the expected date for EPA to establish tolerances for the plant growth regulator Trinexapac-ethyl is April 3 of this year. But, she said, the agency has consistently been running four to six months behind.

“So, I wouldn’t expect to see that at all this growing season,” Lightle said. “But optimistically, we would be looking at having it available for food use next year, which means that you would be able to graze or take silage off a crop that has been treated with this material.”

The use patterns would be one application per season with a thirty-day pre harvest interval.

Field residue work also has been completed for the herbicides Asulox (asulam) and Python, Lightle said, but both are hung up in laboratory analysis.

“Asulox has been particularly frustrating,” she said. “This is an older material that the lab has had a difficult time analyzing, for whatever reason. They have been poking away at this and trying all sorts of different methods to be able to detect the residue on the clover, and they are just not having a lot of luck.

“We don’t know how long they are still going to be in the lab,” she said.

Python also is in the lab, she said. “I imagine that one will go more smoothly than the asulam.”

Lightle also reminded growers that all food and feed uses of chlorpyrifos are revoked at the federal level. “But you guys have a special local needs label,” she said. “And so, that will allow the usage to continue until December 31 of this year.

“After that, even though uses are allowed federally for non-food crops, they are not going to be allowed in Oregon because of Oregon rule making,” she said.

As part of work at looking into alternatives to chlorpyrifos for clover aphid control, OSU researchers found Beleaf and Brigade performed well, as did Sivanto and Sefina. “Sivanto and Sefina both performed well even a month after we treated at that location,” she said.

The research being conducted by OSU Extension Entomologist Navneet Kaur, entomologist Silvia Rondon, who is Director of the Oregon Integrated Pest Management Center, and others, is ongoing.



Clover Market Report

In a market report at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting in February, Kate Hartnell, President of Operations for Saddle Butte Ag in Shedd, said she expects to see clover prices climb slowly as the industry gets closer to harvest and effects of last fall’s weather begins to show.

Hartnell, who prefaced her report with the disclaimer that it was based on her personal experiences with clover species, said she suspects the crimson clover crop is roughly half the crop compared to the same time a year ago. Inventory in red clover is getting tighter, she said, but there is still seed available. And white clover inventory is tight, “but there is still some more being cleaned,” she said.

Prices for crimson have softened heading into spring, she said, noting new crop crimson last year was about \$1.25, before a delayed harvest helped push the price to \$1.55 a pound. “Once it started going to the cleaner, it softened a little, maybe five to ten cents, and the overall average was about at \$1.45.”



Kate Hartnell at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting provides a market report.

Red clover, which started out at about \$2 last spring, is now down to around \$1.50 a pound, she said.

And white clover, which she said has experienced consistently tight inventories, remains at or just over \$3.

Calendar

March 22	Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth’s 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
April 3	Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth’s 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
April 6	Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Roth’s 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
April 11	Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany

THE E-NEWSLETTER The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps. It includes a snapshot of what’s happening currently with respect to weather, pest and disease outbreaks, harvest, label updates, and other management activities. Growers or field reps can provide input anytime at mitchlies@comcast.net.

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Anderson Outlines Clover Research Priorities

Speaking at the Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting in February, OSU Extension Seed Production Specialist Nicole Anderson profiled some of her priorities in clover seed research as she shifts into her new role after serving 13 years as a field crops Extension agent for Washington, Yamhill and Polk counties.

Anderson was named Extension Seed Production Specialist last year.

She opened her presentation with a graph depicting yield data from 1975 through 2021. The graph showed dramatic and regular yield increases in red and crimson clover, particularly in red clover.

“There has been a lot of agronomic work invested into that particular species,” Anderson said, including work into insect control, crop management and more recently into the use of plant growth regulators. “I think there has been a positive trend there.

“The one line that bugs me and that I would like to see change its trajectory is white clover,” she said. “We see yields increasing around the world, but we seem to be kind of at a stagnant place at that 400- to 500-pound range.”

At least some of that stagnation is a result of yield losses to the clover seed weevil, she said, a weevil that recently was shown to be resistant to bifenthrin, a pyrethroid insecticide sold under the trade name Brigade, among others.

“We have to be very careful about how we use Brigade so we don’t end up not having it as a tool going forward.”

Nicole Anderson

“As we have lost Lorsban and have developed resistance problems with bifenthrin, we have to start over on managing that weevil,” she said.

She said it also is important for growers to avoid exacerbating problems with resistance, particularly now that Lorsban is unavailable.

“We don’t want another pest to become resistant (to bifenthrin),” she said. “So, turning all the Lorsban acres into Brigade acres isn’t necessarily a great strategy. We need to be conscientious about how we choose products going forward.

“We have to be very careful about how we use Brigade so we don’t end up not having it as a tool going forward,” she said.

Anderson also identified the clover crown borer in red clover as another insect of concern. And she said it will be important to continue researching weed management for species such as dock.



“Dock spans both red and white clover,” she said. “I think most of you would identify it as one of your biggest weed problems, both from a field competition and seed conditioning standpoint.”

Small broom-rape is another weed Anderson mentioned. “It is getting worse, and we have to remember that it is a federally listed noxious weed, so we can’t ignore that problem.”

Anderson also said that while Oregon growers enjoy a competitive advantage in yields, due in large part to good pollination, she hopes that can improve.

“The big difference between Oregon and Europe and New Zealand is we are just getting better pollination,” she said. “And we know that is somewhat due to our native bee populations doing an excellent job.

“But,” she asked, “are there ways that we can continue to enhance that?”

Anderson said she also plans to continue research on cutting timing and irrigation practices in red clover. “Can we get more efficient?” she asked. “Can we make better decisions with some of the practices we are already using?”