

## **2013 ESA-SME: First Quarter Report on USEPA Liaison Activities**

### **ESA's Subject Matter Expert Liaison Report: USEPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) 2013 – First Quarter Report to the Entomological Society of America By Mark Whalon, March 21, 2013**

Interaction and activities with USEPA OPP and other Divisions representing the Entomological Society of America as Subject Matter Expert (SME) and liaison during the first quarter of 2013 a site visit in Washington DC.

#### **Comments on Insect Resistance Terminology**

Jill Schroeder (Weed Science Society of America's SME) and ESA's SME, Mark Whalon, teamed up to meet with USEPA staff from several different Divisions to address Pesticide Resistance Management Terminology (RM). [Click here for the attached document on Insect Resistance terms.](#) Your comments are most welcome...

Clayton Myers (BEAD) helped to organize the Conference and I have [attached the terminology](#) that USEPA is considering. If you are interested in resistance, please take the time to peruse these suggested terms. Keep in mind that a specific term or 'descriptive-set-of-words' may be targeting a pathogen or weed situation rather than an arthropod circumstance. The Agency's hope is that these terms would be adopted by the scientific organizations involved, so that unambiguous communication can occur where field resistance may generate a policy response. If you are interested, please look these terms over and forward your suggestions and comments to me via my email address ([whalon@msu.edu](mailto:whalon@msu.edu)). The Agency hopes to complete the stakeholder feedback by May, 2013.

#### **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Policy**

At the request of Lois Rossi, (Registration Division), Dan Rosenblatt invested time with the SME to address USEPA's Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) policy in specialty crops in the US. The problem is twofold. First, MRLs are sometimes not harmonized between trading countries across the globe (although the EU now has the CODEX system which has mandated a "harmonization" in Europe), and many non-EU countries lag far behind. This means that producers in the US who choose to export their produce will likely face different and changing regulations depending on the countries they export to. The US also has some of the most lenient pesticide residue tolerances anywhere on earth. Therefore, businesses wishing to export to various edible products to the US, for the most part, have much easier thresholds to overcome than do US exporters in reciprocal trade. Obviously this situation leads to trade barriers and export problems for US producers of agriculture products. A subsequent meeting led by Lois Rossi outlined USEPA plans to continue to support and promulgate sound MRL policy through the Codex Alimentarius ([www.codexalimentarius.org/](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/)) processes, but the scheduling and time

required to achieve these goals often exceed two or even five years! As the SME, I plan to focus some effort on these issues in the months ahead so expect more discussion over the summer.

## **Invasive Species Threat**

USEPA's appreciation of the Invasive Species Threat continues to be a high priority for the Agency, and the Agency's long-term strategy is to provide the Pest Management Tools that the Nation needs to address invasives. However, the Agency believes that the current emergency exemption processes under FIFRA and FQPA will be sufficient to address this rising tide of short-notice arthropod invaders. I do not necessarily believe that a majority of entomologists in the field would share this view. Please email me your comments ([whalon@msu.edu](mailto:whalon@msu.edu)). It is my expectation that this issue will be a high priority in further discussions with the Agency in 2013, and I would appreciate your input and suggestions addressing what the Agency can do to more rapidly engage the invasives introduced into the US.

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