OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University
http://pested.okstate.edu

March, 2018 CHEM

APRIL TEST HELP SESSIONS

The OSU Pesticide Safety Education Program will conduct the next test help workshops in April. The workshops will be held April 3rd in Tulsa and April 24th in Oklahoma City.

The Tulsa session will be at the Tulsa County Extension Office at 4116 E. 15th. The Oklahoma City Test help session will at the Oklahoma County Extension Office 2500 NE 63rd.

The help sessions will focus on information covered in the core and service tech tests. OSU PSEP will answer any questions over other category tests during this session.

Applicators should acquire and study the manuals before coming to the help session for optimum success. Study manuals can be purchased by using the manual order form available at our website http://pested.okstate.edu/pdf/order.pdf or by calling University Mailing at 405-744-5385.

ODAFF Testing fees are not included in the registration fee and must be paid separately.

Register online at the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) website at http://pested.okstate.edu/html/practical.htm.

Registration forms can also be downloaded from the website.

Registration will start at 8:30 and the program will run from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm at both locations. Testing will begin at 1:30 pm at both locations.

NO CEU's will be given for this program!

http://pested.okstate.edu/html/practical.htm

REQUIRED DICAMBA TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR XTENDIMAX, ENGENIA, AND FEXAPAN.

The new restricted use pesticide (RUP) dicamaba formulations must be used by certified applicators and go through required training before using these products on dicamba resistant crops. XtendiMax, Engenia, and Fexapan all require this mandatory training before they can be used. Oklahoma training dates have been set and are listed below. Applicators attendance will be documented and forwarded to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry (ODAFF). Oklahoma training is accepted for applicators applying these products in Texas and Kansas by TDA and KDA.

March 5 Kingfisher Kingfisher County Fairgrounds

March 6 Carnegie TBD

March 22 Taloga Dewey County Fairgrounds

TBD Goodwell OPREC Conference Center

Please contact your local County Extension Office for more information on locations and times of these meeting.

All applicators must keep records of applications of these products since they are restricted use pesticides. The labels require more items be kept than standard RUP products. The OSU Pesticide Safety Education Program has produced a recordkeeping sheet to meet these requirements for applicators and producers. The recordkeeping form can be found on our webpage at the address below. (OSU PSEP)
http://pested.okstate.edu/html/records.html

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR GLYPHOSATE DRAFT RISK ASSESSMENTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has opened the 60-day public comment period for the draft glyphosate human health and ecological risk assessments. Comments are due by April 30, 2018.

The draft risk assessments and supporting documents are available in glyphosate's registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361 on www.regulations.gov.

After the comment period, EPA will evaluate the comments received and consider any potential risk management options for this herbicide.

For additional details read our December 2017 announcement: EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments for Glyphosate.(EPA March 2, 2018) https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/public-comment-period-open-glyphosate-draft-risk-assessments

EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR NEONICOTINOID RISK ASSESSMENTS

At the request of stakeholders, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending the public comment period for recently released neonicotinoid insecticide risk assessments from February 20, 2018, to April 21, 2018. The Agency published preliminary ecological and human health risk assessments in December 2017 for the neonicotinoid insecticides, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran, and a preliminary ecological risk assessment for imidacloprid

(assessing risks to birds, mammals, non-target insects, and plants). In December 2017, the Agency also published new cotton and citrus benefits assessments for foliar applications of the neonicotinoids, as well as a response to public comments on the 2014 Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatment to Soybean Production
EPA encourages stakeholders and interested members of the public to comment on these assessments in the dockets linked below. EPA may revise the assessments based on information and comments received. The Agency plans to release the final pollinator risk assessments for these chemicals in mid-2018.
Imidacloprid registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844
Clothianidin registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0865
Thiamethoxam registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581
Dinotefuran registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0920 (EPA February 15, 2018)
https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-extends-comment-period-neonicotinoid-risk-assessments

EPA FINES AMAZON $1.2 MILLION FOR FIFRA VIOLATIONS

Amazon will pay a $1.2 million penalty to settle nearly 4,000 alleged violations of U.S. law related to illegal pesticide sales.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) alleges Amazon violated the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), selling and distributing imported pesticide and insecticide products that weren't approved in the U.S.

The online behemoth agreed to monitor and remove illegal pesticide products from its website to "significantly reduce the number of illegal pesticides available through the online marketplace," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said. Amazon said third-party sellers had sold the products through its website, according to Reuters. The EPA contends the retailer was handling and profiting off the products.

Green industry professionals have expressed frustration with the regulatory burdens placed upon them in terms of certification and training, while observing that homeowners can purchase both restricted-use and nonregistered pesticides online, the National Association of Landscape Professionals said in its government affairs newsletter, The Advocate.(Landscape Management, February 28, 2018)
http://landscapemanagement.net/epa-fines-amazon-1-2-million-for-fifra-vioations/?utm_source=lm%20direct&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=lm_direct_03012018&eid=412858394&bid=2019610

RESEARCHERS EXPLORE HOW SOLITARY COCKROACHES GAVE RISE TO SOCIAL TERMITES

Editor's note: North Carolina State News recently published the following guest post by Coby Schal, Blanton J. Whitmire Distinguished Professor of Entomology at NC State. He and co-authors published a paper comparing the genomes of the German cockroach and the drywood termite in Nature Ecology & Evolution.

Termites are "social cockroaches." They evolved from ancestral solitary cockroaches some 150 million years ago, at least 50 million years before bees, ants and wasps evolved similar intricate societies independently of termites. Termites live in complex societies characterized by division of labor of castes and close coordination of tasks among members of the colony. For example, the queen and king monopolize all reproduction within the colony, while workers and soldiers maintain and defend the colony. This separation of responsibilities within the colony requires clear recognition of who's who and mechanisms to suppress worker reproduction when a fertile queen is present, and stimulate new queens to develop when the resident queen dies.

At the same time, termites have a relatively simple lifestyle – they eat wood and rarely venture in the open. These changes from the ancestral solitary cockroach should be reflected in the organization of the termite genes, the genome.

The German cockroach has a very different lifestyle from the termite. It is the quintessential omnivore, eating all foods, scavenging and even engaging in coprophagy – eating communal feces – to obtain symbiotic microorganisms and nutrients from members of its group. This cockroach is a global indoor pest that has significant adverse effects on human health. Cockroaches produce potent allergens that can trigger allergies and asthma, especially in children living in cockroach-infested homes. They thrive in unsanitary conditions and therefore they not only transmit pathogens to people, but have evolved a broad range of immune mechanisms to prevent from being infected themselves. Finally, cockroaches have evolved many mechanisms to resist the broad array of offensive chemicals they encounter in their environment, including an expansive arsenal of insecticides we use in our efforts to eradicate them.

A paper in Nature Ecology & Evolution reports the sequencing, annotation and analysis of the genomes of the German cockroach, Blattella germanica, and the drywood termite, Cryptotermes secundus, within the context of the evolution of sociality in termites from solitary cockroaches. The team, including NC State entomologist Coby Schal and principal research scholar Ayako Wada-Katsumata, compared these genomes and those of 15 other insect species so that the evolution of gene families could be analyzed along the transition from non-social cockroaches to social termites. Of particular interest in this paper are the chemosensory genes, which are used in chemical communication – smell and taste. The nocturnal and omnivorous lifestyle of cockroaches requires substantial investment in sensitive and discerning senses of smell and taste, and the genome of the cockroach reflects this. Four families of chemosensory proteins enable insects to distinguish diverse foods, locate and recognize mates and aggregation sites (pheromones), and avoid poisons and pathogens. The German cockroach now holds the world record for the diversity of its chemosensory gene repertoire, and this resource will be invaluable for developing better lures and baits for pest control. The far more specialized but evolutionarily related termite experienced considerable losses of smell and taste genes, commensurate with the more specialized chemistry of its ecological habitat. Yet, the termite genome reveals signatures of chemosensory adaptations that persisted from cockroaches and likely shaped the evolution of social life in these "social cockroaches."

Expansions of many other gene families in the cockroach genome likely enabled adaptations and successful colonization of diverse habitats. The publically available genome sequence will enable researchers and the pest control industry to investigate the functions of many genes and target some with innovative and cockroach-specific pesticides. Among these are genes involved in the breakdown and clearance of insecticides. Expansions in these genes and their heightened expression allows B. germanica to develop resistance to a broad range of insecticides. Likewise, the cockroach can resist many different types of pathogens because it harbors expanded families of genes used in immune responses and defense against pathogens. The expanded repertoire of genes that encode digestive enzymes supports the success of the German cockroach as an extreme omnivore, capable of digesting a broad range of foods from Krispy Kreme donuts to leftover steak.

This research was part of the i5k project housed in the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center in Houston, an international public consortium effort to sequence and analyze 5,000 high-priority arthropods with beneficial and harmful effects. The NC State team led the early phases of the project and generated the inbred cockroaches that were sequenced, and scientists from 11 research institutions in 6 countries participated in this study. The Schal lab at NC State was supported in part by grants from US Department of Housing and Urban Development (NCHHU-0017-13), National Science Foundation (IOS-1557864), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (2013-5-35 MBE), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (P30ES025128) to Center for Human Health and the Environment, and the Blanton J. Whitmire Endowment at NC State.

(PCT Online, March 1, 2018)
http://www.pctonline.com/article/nc-state-termite-cockroaches-social-termites-genomes/

FEDERAL JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF AGRICULTURE COALITION'S REQUEST TO HALT CALIFORNIA'S 'FALSE AND MISLEADING' PROP 65 LABELING OF GLYPHOSATE

Citing harm to the nation's agriculture economy, Judge William Shubb of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting California from implementing its "false and misleading" Prop 65 labeling requirement for the herbicide glyphosate. The injunction was sought by more than a dozen leading agriculture groups and supported by eleven attorneys general across the U.S. The preliminary injunction will halt California's labeling requirement until a final ruling on the matter is issued by the court.

"Farmers work tirelessly to put food on America's tables, and Glyphosate is a vital tool that growers have trusted to provide safe, affordable food," said Chandler Goule, Chief Executive Officer for the National Wheat Growers Association, the lead plaintiff in the case. "Every regulatory body in the world that has reviewed glyphosate has found it safe for use and no available product matches glyphosate with a comparable health and environmental safety profile. We are pleased Judge Stubb granted our request, which is the first step in our efforts to prevent California from forcing farmers, growers and manufacturers to place false and misleading labels on agricultural products. California's erroneous Prop 65 listing of glyphosate is not based on data, facts or science and we look forward to continuing to make our case to the court."

Judge Shubb made the following statements when issuing his ruling granting the agriculture coalition's request for a preliminary junction:

"As applied to glyphosate, the required warnings are false and misleading. Plaintiffs have thus established a likelihood of success on the merits of their claim that the warning requirement violates their First Amendment rights." (p. 17)

"the heavy weight of evidence in the record that glyphosate is not in fact known to cause cancer, the required warning is factually inaccurate and controversial." (p. 16)

"However, a reasonable consumer would not understand that a substance is 'known to cause cancer' where only one health organization had found that the substance in question causes cancer and virtually all other government agencies and health organizations that have reviewed studies on the chemical had found there was no evidence that it caused cancer. Under these facts, the message that glyphosate is known to cause cancer is misleading at best." (p. 14)

"It is inherently misleading for a warning to state that a chemical is known to the state of California to cause cancer based on the finding of one organization (which as noted above, only found that substance is probably carcinogenic), when apparently all other regulatory and governmental bodies have found the opposite, including the EPA, which is one of the bodies California law expressly relies on in determining whether a chemical causes cancer." (pp. 15-16)

Glyphosate is approved for application in over 250 agricultural crops throughout the United States. Despite scientific findings from hundreds of studies and conclusions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and regulatory agencies around the world that glyphosate is safe for use, California ignored facts, data and science, when it added glyphosate to the state's Prop 65 list.

The National Association of Wheat Growers are the lead plaintiff in the case against California filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. The plaintiffs include the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, the Agricultural Retailers Association, Associated Industries of Missouri, Iowa Soybean Association, Missouri Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, CropLife America, Missouri Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, South Dakota Agri-Business Association and United States Durum Growers Association.

(Oklahoma Farm Report, February 27, 2018)
http://oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/2018/02/03514_Federal_Judge_Rules_in_Favor_of_Agriculture_Coalition_s_Request_to_Halt_California_s_False_and_Misleading_Prop_65_Labeling_of_Glyphosate_105159.php#.WpliWkxFxaR

US EPA UNABLE TO EVALUATE WORKER PROTECTION RULES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lacks the ability to measure the effectiveness of federal rules intended to protect farmworkers from pesticide exposures, according to a new report by the Agency's Office of Inspector General (OIG).

The report examines the EPA's implementation of revisions to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), a set of regulations intended to safeguard more than 2 million farmworkers and pesticide applicators. Changes to the WPS were finalized in September 2015, including new training and recordkeeping requirements, expanded restrictions on when workers can re-enter treated fields and new age limits for workers who handle pesticides.

When the revisions were finalized, the EPA said that they would result in fewer pesticide exposure incidents -- the Agency estimates that some 10,000-20,000 farmworkers annually suffer from injuries or illnesses related to pesticide exposures. But the OIG report finds that the Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has no means to verify if the new rules are working as it relies on information assessed during the re-evaluation of active ingredients and from voluntary reporting databases.

"The EPA does not have the ability to collect agricultural pesticide exposure incident data to measure the impact of the revised WPS rule among target populations," according to the OIG, an independent office within the Agency. "While the main objective of the revised rule is to reduce pesticide exposure and incidents among farm workers and pesticide handlers, OPP staff said the Agency is not statutorily required to collect occupational pesticide exposure incident data, nor does the Agency receive funding -- either for itself or states -- to collect exposure incident data."

The report recommends that the OPP develop a system to collect and track pesticide exposure incidents, noting that the inability to do so "may impede" the Agency's ability to assess the success of the WPS changes.

But the Agency bristles at the suggestion, arguing that it lacks the statutory authority to require reporting of pesticide exposure incidents from states or WPS-target populations. The OPP notes that it collects pesticide incident data from "a wide variety of sources" but says that those sources are "neither detailed nor comprehensive enough to provide a statistically representative picture of farmworker pesticide incidents".

The OIG remains unconvinced and also criticizes the OPP for failing to access pesticide incident data from some 30 states. The OPP says that it is aware of the data but lacks a mechanism to collect them.

The report, released on February 15th, comes amid lingering controversy over the changes to the WPS. Most of the revisions technically went into effect in January 2017, but the EPA has not pursued enforcement for non-compliance. The Trump administration said last spring that it would delay implementation in the wake of concerns raised by state officials and agricultural interests. In December 2017, the EPA said that the revised WPS would enter into full effect on January 2nd 2018, but it would reconsider several key changes.

The Agency intends to launch a new rulemaking to reconsider age restrictions in the WPS along with the "designated representative" and "application exclusion zone" (AEZ) provisions. The Agency has yet to commence that rulemaking. Environmentalists have called the move unwarranted and Senate Democrats are pushing the

EPA to abandon the decision and implement the full suite of revisions to the WPS. (Pesticide & Chemical Policy/AGROW, February 27, 2018)

DEATH BY TERMITE: PURDUE ENTOMOLOGIST USES NATURAL CRAVINGS TO CONTROL INVASIVE ANTS

Pesticide baits are designed to smell and taste like foods that pest insects might want to consume, with varying degrees of success in controlling the pests. But a Purdue University entomologist has found a better way — giving the insects exactly what they want rather than a knock-off.

Grzegorz Buczkowski, a research associate professor in the Department of Entomology coated termites with fipronil and set them free near colonies of invasive ants in South Africa. Over three weeks, nearly every ant was killed and Buczkowski used far less insecticide than traditional control methods.

"All ants eat protein to grow, and they usually get it by preying on insects," said Buczkowski, whose findings were published in the Journal of Applied Entomology. "We are feeding them what they want and getting better results."

There are invasive ant species on nearly every continent, often brought from their native countries to others in the holds of ships. The Argentine ant, for example, came from Argentina to the United States more than a century ago in soil used as ballast on ships. When the ships arrived in Louisiana, they dumped the soil to load up on cargo, and the ants started to spread, reaching much of the southern portion of the country.

Argentine ants outcompete many other species, disrupting ecological interactions. They also consume secretions from crop pests, such as aphids. In return, they protect those pests from natural predators, allowing their populations to grow.

It's the Argentine ants' ability to dominate other species that makes Buczkowski's control method so effective.

"Argentine ants are highly aggressive and competitive. It's why they can outcompete native ants," Buczkowski said. "But that works against them. When you put out termites, Argentine ants are the first to find them. They take these termites back to the nest and poison the whole colony."

In field tests in South Africa, Buczkowski created six 100-square-meter plots and released termites coated in fipronil, a broad-spectrum insecticide. In four plots, 100 percent of ants were eradicated within 21 days. In the other two, nearly 98 percent of the ants were killed.

Fipronil is often used in other forms, but those require far more of the poison to control the same area. It would take 2,644 times more liquid spray, and 16,158 times more granules to cover 100 square meters. Those forms are spread on the ground, and insects not meant to consume the poisons can also be killed.

The termites have another advantage over other forms of poisons. Granules, gels and sprays only affect the worker ants that come into contact with or consume them.

But the worker ants can't digest termites themselves. Instead, they use a process called trophallaxis. They take the termites back to their nests and feed them to larvae, which pre-digest the insect and feed it back to the workers. The larvae, the workers and the queens, who receive the predigested termites from workers, are all poisoned.

"With some baits you kill off the workers, but you still have queens and broods, and a few weeks later you have a new generation," Buczkowski said. "With this, you're stopping the colony from reproducing."

While the termites die within an hour of being painted with fipronil, Buczkowski isn't recommending setting termites loose near homes or other buildings to control ant populations. He sees the method as an effective way to control invasive ant populations in large natural areas that contain colonies with millions of ants.

Future research will include testing other poisons, as well as different bait insects and other species of invasive ants. Since ants tend to want fresh prey, Buczkowski is experimenting with freeze-dried termites that look fresh but could be pre-treated and taken to field areas to kill ants. (PCT Online, February 21, 2018) http://www.pctonline.com/article/death-termites-purdue-research/

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICALS: THE SHOES ARE BEGINNING TO FIT

Not too many years ago, I was invited to be a speaker at the annual meeting of the Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA). The main reason I was asked to talk at this event was that many in the biologicals market were curious how their products were perceived by Ag retailers at the time, particularly in the Midwest.

To prepare for this speech, I did a quick survey of many of our CropLife 100 retailers to get their opinions on biologicals. To say the reviews weren't glowing would be an understatement. Here is a sampling of what was written by respondents:

"I need to see performance before believing in them."

"They are not as effective as hard chemistry."

"I need more education before considering these kinds of products."

Somewhat reluctantly, I shared these views with BPIA attendees. And I could see by the reactions that this news was a bit discouraging. So I did something speakers are never, ever supposed to do: I told a joke.

It was the one about two shoe salesmen who were sent to scout a potential new market for selling their company's shoes — a market where no one currently wore shoes. The first salesmen sent this note to his boss: "No market for us here. No one wears shoes." The second, however, had a different take: "Unlimited potential for us here. No one wears shoes."

I then made my point to the audience. "To make an impact with Ag retailers, biological marketers need to think like the second shoe salesman," I said.

Now, less than five years removed from that BPIA meeting, the biologicals market with Ag retailers is making big gains. According to the numbers, the overall marketplace has grown from under $1 billion at the start of the 2010s to more than $2 billion worldwide today. And predictions are that this market value will top the $7 billion mark by 2022.

And the views among Midwestern Ag retailers has changed as well. "We are using biologicals with quite a few of our customers," says John Christian, Owner of Green Valley Agricultural in Wayland, MI. "And you are seeing more and more retailers getting involved in this market every year now."

So it's nice to see that the majority of biological marketers have apparently taken the second shoe salesman's approach to getting information out about their product lines. It's for this reason that the editors of CropLife® magazine have decided to produce a special report companion to our March edition. We, too, see the potential for biologicals for ag retailers and their grower-customers as everyone looks for new ways to boost yield and manage pests.

In other words, if the shoe fits, it's time for the overall industry to wear it! (CropLife, March 1, 2018) http://www.croplife.com/special-reports/agricultural-biologicals-shoes-beginning-fit/

US LAWMAKERS SLAM IARC GLYPHOSATE REVIEW

US lawmakers have issued a scathing indictment of the UN World Health Organizations (WHO's) cancer research agency's decision to declare glyphosate a probable human carcinogen in 2015 and have again threatened to pull funding from the scientific body.

The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) "cherry-picked" information to support its conclusion about the carcinogenicity of the herbicide, Representative Lamar Smith, chair of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, said at a February 6th hearing.

The IARC's "selective use" of data and its "lack of public disclosure" raise questions about why it should receive US funding in the future, said Mr Smith, a Texas Republican. "IARC's glyphosate monograph contained substantial portions of alterations and deletions, it appears, to aid the monograph in drawing a particular conclusion," added Representative Frank Lucas, an Oklahoma Republican. "This kind of shoddy work is unacceptable from any scientific body let alone one funded by US taxpayers."

Congress has appropriated some $48 million to the Agency since 1985 and $22 million of that funding -- including $1.2 million last year -- has gone to the IARC's Monograph Programme to assess the potential carcinogenicity of chemicals and other substances.

The glyphosate monograph is an outlier, Mr Lucas said, noting that the US EPA, the European Food Safety Agency and other regulators have concluded that glyphosate does not pose a cancer risk. "While the appearance of agenda-driven manipulation is troubling on its own, it is even more so considering that IARC's conclusion is not only on the fringe of the scientific world, but is completely and totally by itself," Mr Lucas said.

Mr Smith also criticized the IARC for not providing a witness for the hearing. The Committee chair and other Republicans on the panel have sent several letters to IARC director Christopher Wild, questioning the glyphosate monograph and urging him to send a representative to testify before Congress. "When asked to provide a witness, Dr Wild refused to attend," Mr Smith said. "No doubt he could not defend IARC's glyphosate findings."

In a response sent last month to the Committee, Dr Wild did, however, defend his Agency and its glyphosate monograph. He rebuffed the criticism of the Republican lawmakers and said that the IARC adheres to the "highest principles of transparency, independence and scientific integrity".

Democrats on the Committee said that Republicans were distorting the nature of the IARC's work and acting on behalf of the agrochemical industry, which has roundly denounced the glyphosate monograph. "Science is not about getting the results you want," said Representative Paul Tonko, a New York Democrat. "Scientific integrity is about ensuring a process and atmosphere in which the science leads us to real, unvarnished results. The issue we should be focused on is whether glyphosate is safe."

The IARC monograph is a "hazard assessment" not a risk assessment, added Representative Suzanne Bonamici, an Oregon Democrat.

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson said that the Committee should be focusing on Monsanto's alleged attempts to influence the US EPA's glyphosate assessment, rather than worrying about the IARC. The EPA's Office of Inspector General is investigating reports that a former top pesticide official may have colluded with Monsanto to skew the Agency's review of glyphosate's potential carcinogenicity. "If this committee really wishes to do oversight in defense of scientific integrity, those allegations would certainly seem to be worthy of our attention," Bernice Johnson a Texas Democrat, told colleagues.

An EPA toxicologist at the hearing declined to weigh in on the IARC controversy, instead defending the Agency's ongoing glyphosate review and its 2017 draft risk assessment that found that the herbicide is not likely to pose a cancer risk. "EPA is not bound by IARC's conclusion," said

Anna Lowit, a senior science advisor with the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. "We have come to the conclusion that glyphosate is not likely carcinogenic to humans and that is similar to many other nations around the world, including our Canadian colleagues and the European Food Safety Agency."

The EPA assessment was developed with "conservative exposure assessments … and no risks to humans -- including infants and children -- were identified", Dr Lowit told the Committee.

Mr Lucas closed the hearing with a promise that the Committee would remain engaged with the controversy around the IARC and its glyphosate review. "This is a subject matter that we will continue to delve into at great depth," he said. (Pesticide & Chemical Policy/AGROW, February 7, 2018)

FAMILY CLAIMS BED BUG HEAT TREATMENT KILLED ELDERLY RELATIVE

The family of recently deceased Elizabeth Ashbaugh is claiming her death was the result of a bed bug heat treatment, the Houston Chronicle reported. The family is suing Certified Termite and Pest Control, as well as the owners of the Houston apartment complex in which the 82-year-old woman resided, the Chronicle reported.

Elizabeth Ashbaugh's family said the heat treatment caused the temperature in her apartment to rise to a scorching 139°F and ultimately kill her, they wrote in a negligence lawsuit filed in Harris County last week, the Chronicle reported.

According to the Chronicle, Elizabeth and her husband, William Ashbaugh, weren't home when Certified Termite and Pest Control Company treated their apartment in July 2017. Shortly after the company finished, however, the couple re-entered their house, and both began to lose consciousness.

Click here to read the entire article.

(PCT Online, February 5, 2018)
http://www.pctonline.com/article/family-files-lawsuit-bed-bug-heat-treatment-lawsuit/

COURT UPHOLDS US STATE OF ARKANSAS' DICAMBA BAN

A court in the US state of Arkansas has dismissed Monsanto's challenge of a state prohibition on the spraying of dicamba herbicide between April 16th and October 31st. However, the ruling is unlikely to be the end of the legal battle over the herbicide ban.

The Arkansas State Plant Board recommended the ban last year after the state received nearly 1,000 complaints about dicamba damage to non-target crops during the 2017 growing season.

The lawsuit filed by Monsanto against the Board aimed to uproot the ban while challenging the Board's refusal to approve the company's herbicide, XtendiMax (dicamba, diglycolamine salt) for use on its genetically modified dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans.

The Board rejected Monsanto's XtendiMax application in 2016, calling for independent volatility testing by researchers at the University of Arkansas.

In its complaint, Monsanto argued that the testing requirement was unnecessary and illegal. The company noted that the Board had not imposed the same restrictions on BASF's dicamba-based Engenia herbicide, which it had approved for use on the Xtend crops.

Pulaksi County Circuit Court Judge Chris Piazza last week rejected the complaint on jurisdictional grounds without considering the merits of the legal challenge. The Judge cited a recent Arkansas Supreme Court ruling that found the state could not be made a defendant in court.

But that decision has proven controversial and Judge Piazza said that Monsanto's request for a preliminary injunction could be revived if the Supreme Court modified the scope of its ruling on the state's sovereign immunity to lawsuits.

Scott Partridge, Monsanto's vice-president of global strategy, said that the company is disappointed in the Circuit Court ruling and "will consider additional legal steps that might be appropriate".

Arkansas is not the only US state to require additional limits on dicamba use, but its rules are the tightest in the nation.

Minnesota, North Dakota and Missouri have adopted various cut-off dates for June or July and imposed timing and weather restrictions to mitigate drift worries. Monsanto, BASF and DuPont are also facing more than a dozen class action lawsuits brought by farmers who believe that the agrochemical companies are liable for dicamba damage to their crops. (Pesticide & Chemical Policy/AGROW, February 22, 2018)

CEU Meetings

Date: March 9, 2018
Title: Simplot Turf and Horticulture Seminar 2018
Location: Will Rogers Gardens Oklahoma City
Contact: Suzy Stevenson (405) 948-1084

CEU's:	Category(s):
4	3A
4	10

Date: March 15, 2018
Title: Univar 2018 Annual CEU Training
Location: Clarion Hotel Broken Arrow OK
Contact: Deb Chambers (918) 630-3222
www.vannetus.com

CEU's:	Category(s):
3	3A
2	7A
2	7B
1	8
6	10

Date: March 12, 2018
Title: OSU Tree Care Issues Workshop
Location: OSU Wes Watkins Center Stillwater OK
Contact: Dr. Mike Schnelle (405) 744-7361
www.hortla.okstate.edu

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBD	3A
TBD	3C
TBD	10

Date: September 18, 2018
Title: 2018 Ensystex CEU Workshop
Location: Hampton Inn & Suites 85th Ave Tulsa OK
Contact: Donald Stetler Jr. (281) 217-2965
www.ceuworkshop.com

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	3A
2	7A
1	7B
1	8
6	10

Date: September 19, 2018
Title: 2018 Ensystex CEU Workshop
Location: Holiday Inn Express Durant OK
Contact: Donald Stetler Jr. (281) 217-2965
www.ceuworkshop.com

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	3A
2	7A
1	7B
1	8
6	10

ODAFF Approved Online CEU Course Links

PestED.com
https://www.pested.com/

CEU School
http://www.ceuschool.org/

Technical Learning College
http://www.abctlc.com/

Green Applicator Training
http://www.greenapplicator.com/training.asp

All Star Pro Training
www.allstarce.com

Wood Destroying Organism Inspection Course
www.nachi.org/wdocourse.htm

CTN Educational Services Inc
http://ctnedu.com/oklahoma_applicator_enroll.html

Pest Network
http://www.pestnetwork.com/

Univar USA
http://www.pestweb.com/

Southwest Farm Press Spray Drift Mgmt
http://www.pentonag.com/nationalsdm

SW Farm Press Weed Resistance Mgmt in Cotton
http://www.pentonag.com/CottonWRM

Western Farm Press ABC's of MRLs
http://www.pentonag.com/mrl

Western Farm Press Biopesticides Effective Use in Pest Management Programs
http://www.pentonag.com/biopesticides

Western Farm Press Principles & Efficient Chemigation
http://www.pentonag.com/Valmont

For more information and an updated list of CEU meetings, click on this link:
http://www.oda.state.ok.us/cps-ceu.htm

ODAFF Test Information

Pesticide applicator test sessions dates and locations for March/April are as follows:

March			April	
5	OKC		2	OKC
6	Goodwell		11	Lawton
8	Tulsa		12	Tulsa
13	Hobart		16	OKC
19	OKC		26	Tulsa
22	Tulsa			

Altus: SW Research & Extension Center 16721 US HWY 283

Ardmore Carter County Extension Office 107 1st Ave Ardmore OK

Enid: Garfield County Extension Office, 316 E. Oxford.

Goodwell: Okla. Panhandle Research & Extension Center, Rt. 1 Box 86M

Hobart: Kiowa County Extension Center Courthouse Annex, 302 N. Lincoln

Lawton: Great Plains Coliseum, 920 S. Sheridan Road., Prairie Bldg

McAlester: Kiamichi Tech Center on Highway 270 W of HWY 69

OKC: ODAFF Building 2800 N Lincoln BLVD Oklahoma City OK **(New Location)**

Tulsa: NE Campus of Tulsa Community College, (Apache & Harvard) Large Auditorium

Pesticide Safety Education Program