

CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- National Plant Board Meeting
- Grape Pests Survey
- Federal and State Phytosanitary Certificates Issued
- Pesticide Registrations
- Pesticide Sample Submissions
- Pesticide Related Inspections
- EPA Grant Negotiations for 2010
- National Pesticide Application Certification and Training Meeting
- Worker Protection Inspections at Weyerhaeuser
- Pesticide Program Management in the 21st Century
- Africanized Honey Bees
- AAFCO Annual Meeting
- ODAFF Aflatoxin Blending Policy
- Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association Board of Directors Meeting
- 2009 AAPFCO Annual Conference
- Weights and Measures Program Performance

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National Plant Board Meeting by Jeanetta Cooper

Oklahoma hosted the 2009 National Plant Board (NPB) August 9-13 in downtown Oklahoma City. This was the first time this national meeting has been held in Oklahoma and 181 state plant regulators, USDA, Customs & Border Protection, Canadian Food Inspection Service, Mexico Ministry of Agriculture, US Forest Service,

The Nature Conservancy, and other stakeholders attended. The NPB is made up of the principal plant pest regulators from all 50 states and Puerto Rico and meets annually to provide updates on federal and state plant protection programs, quarantines, and pest introductions. The agenda was designed to pre-

sent pertinent topics and pest alerts, plus panel groups to open dialogue, exchange ideas and perspectives, and outline potential outcomes and goals.



Topics included:

- US Forest Service and National Association of Foresters updates
- News from the National Plant Diagnostic Network
- Irradiation as a plant quarantine treatment
- North American Plant Protection Organization status of seed panel
- Biological Research Service update
- Customs & Border Protection special topics
- National Clean Plant Network
- Post entry quarantine for plants
- 1,000 canker disease of walnut trees
- Phytosanitary certificate fees increase implementation
- Barberry black stem rust disease of wheat



Cowboy on a horse

Panel topics that generated audience participation and meaningful questions and discussions were:

- Biological Control.** Purpose was to gain a better understanding of USDA PPQ's strategic plan and to discuss the potential of a national facility for rearing biological control agents and sterile insects.
- Social Media.** Purpose was how to use social sciences in the regulatory decision-making process and using new media (i.e. WebPages, twitter, online advertising) to target and reinforce messages. Messages such as "Buy Local" and "Go Green" portray agriculture as a champion for food safety issues.
- Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan.** Purpose was to gather state feedback on the plan and to develop recommendations that could improve the plan. Consensus was that the plan was confusing since it is not a quarantine or regulation and that the plan needs to be examined and updated.
- Phytophthora ramorum, (Sudden Oak Death).** Purpose was to exchange ideas and perspectives on federal and state efforts to regulation this disease and to identify potential improvements.
- Firewood.** Purpose was to address firewood as a pathway for multiple pests such as emerald ash borer, and to identify what needs to be done to develop standardized regulations and quarantines.

Grape Pests Survey by Jeanetta Cooper



Symptoms of Pierce's Disease include chlorosis and scorching of the leaves with a highly defined pattern between healthy and dying tissue. Vines generally die within 1-5 years.

Oklahoma has had a long history with grape cultivation and at one time in the early 1900's was a leading producer of grapes in the south central U.S. A steady increase in grape production has occurred since the mid-1990s and continues today. Recently, a resurgence of the grape growing and wine making industries in

Oklahoma has lead to an increase of grape planting. In the *Report of the 2006 Oklahoma Grape Growers Survey* conducted by OSU, grape acreage was reported in 34 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. The majority of the grapes are grown for the use of wine, but grapes for fresh market, juice, and jelly are also being grown. Numerous insect pests and grape diseases are known to exist and among those serious pests are the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease. The 2009 Cooperative Agricultural Pests Survey (CAPS) was designed to survey for native grape pests as well as exotic pests and potential vectors of exotic pests.



Phylloxera colony with females and nymphs shown below

Twenty growers with the largest acreage of planted grapes were selected for survey. Traps were placed in early spring to detect the presence of silver

Y moth, light brown apple moth, European grape vine moth, and glassy-winged sharpshooter. Visual inspection of traps and vines is done each time traps are serviced. Trap and plant tissue collections are bagged and sent to OSU Plant Disease & Insect Identification Laboratory (PDIDL) for diagnosis.

Tissue samples taken from a vineyard in Creek County tested positive for Pierce's disease. Plant Protection inspectors Joe Rackley, Barbara Shove and Jeanetta Cooper met with OSU insect and disease specialists to assess the extent of infestation and take additional samples. The vineyard is approximately 7 years old and the source of grapevines was varied; some of the vines were from New York, some had been traded with other grape growers, and some were from a vineyard that was being torn out.

Pierce's Disease is a deadly disease of grapevines caused by a bacterium which is spread by xylem feeding leafhoppers such as the glassy-winged sharpshooters. The bacterium works by blocking the xylem, which conducts the water throughout the plant.

The team took tissue samples and field sweeps for insects. Common weeds like sunflower, cocklebur,

morning glory, and horseweed are also hosts to the bacterium and the perimeter of the vineyard was inspected and swept for insects which recovered 2 sharpshooters that OSU will identify.

Another pest found in abundance in the vineyard was grape phylloxera. Phylloxera causes gall to form on leaf and root tissue. These galls contain numerous small, wingless, yellowish aphids. Heavy infestations cause distortion, necrosis, and premature defoliation and once they reach the roots, produce characteristic root galls.

Once all the samples have been diagnosed, OSU will present the grower with recommendations for treatments and preventing further plant disease and insect infections.



Gall forming on a leaf and root tissue caused by Phylloxera

Federal Phytosanitary Certificates Issue by Jeanetta Cooper

Country	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
Italy	11	Peanuts	128.798 metric tons
Japan	5	Peanuts	100.000 metric tons
Mexico	2	Peanuts	39.958 metric tons
Spain	5	Peanuts	101.366 metric tons
TOTAL	23		

State Phytosanitary Certificates Issued by Jeanetta Cooper

State	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
California	9	Plants	24
Idaho	1	Plants	10
Montana	7	Plants	1,723
New Mexico	108	Plants	31,306
Oregon	1	Plants	2
Utah	3	Plants	11
Washington	1	Plants	1
TOTAL	130		

EPA Grant Negotiations Completed for 2010

by Jason Baker

On August 26, 2009 Bill Taylor, Assistant Director and Jason Baker, Pesticide Certification and Training Administrator completed negotiations

for the 2010 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act enforcement programs. ODAFF expects to receive approximately

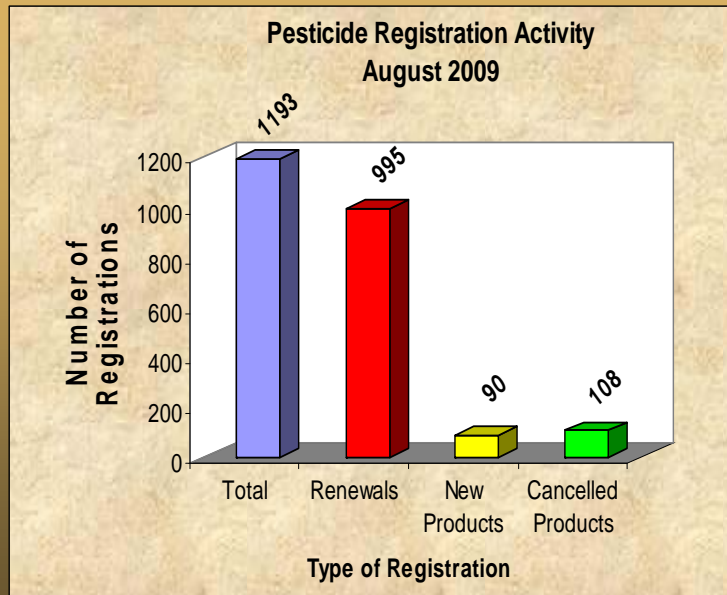
\$635,000 in federal funds for this program.



Stack of money

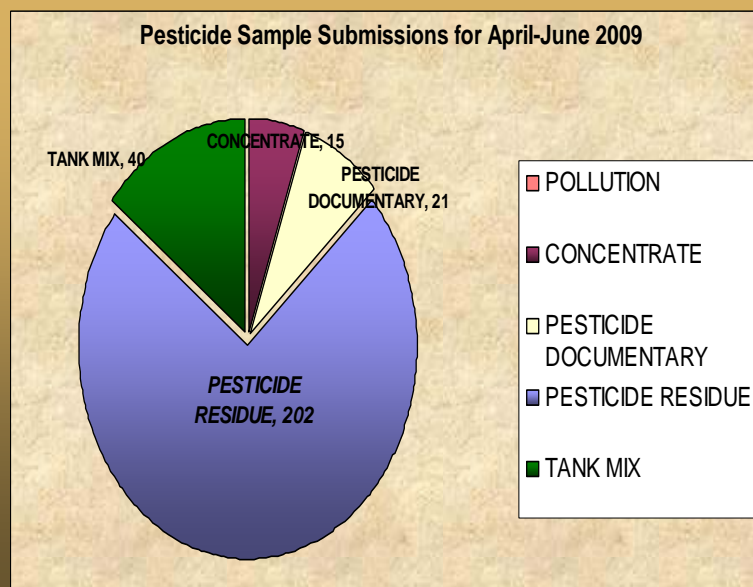
Pesticide Registration by Chris Townsley

Registration activity that occurred during the month ending August 31, 2009 is presented in the following chart. One thousand one hundred and ninety three of pesticide products were registered. Of the products registered, 995 were renewals and 90 were new. There were 108 products cancelled.



Pesticide Sample Submissions by Chris Townsley

There were 278 pesticide samples submitted for the quarter ending June 30. The breakdown of samples consists of 202 pesticide residues, 40 tank mixes, 15 concentrates, 21 pesticide documents and 0 air samples.



Pesticide Related Inspections by Jason Baker

Inspection Count for July – August

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections		
	July	August	Two Month Total
Experimental Use Permit	0	0	0
Marketplace	12	30	42
Pesticide Applicator Facility	10	12	22
Pesticide Service Inspection	0	0	0
Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer	2	1	3
Producer Establishment	9	4	13
Use	30	24	54
Termite	1	1	2
Wood	0	0	0
Pre-treat	29	29	58
Drift Investigation	30	6	36
Suspect Pesticide Label	4	6	10
Worker Protection	7	9	16
Total	134	122	256

Along with the above inspections CPS pesticide inspectors also took 114 Ag Use Samples, 144 Non Ag Use Samples, 70 Market Place Samples and 43 Pesticide Producing Establishment Samples for a two month total of 371. The inspectors also participated in 5 certification and training activities. These activities include inspector training, CEU meetings, test sessions, pesticide applicator training and speaking at meetings.

National Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Meeting by Jason Baker

On August 10 – 13 Jason Baker, Pesticide Certification and Training Administrator gave a presentation on ODAFF’s Pesticide Sensitive Viewer at the North American Pesticide Applicator

Certification and Safety Education Workshop in Charleston, South Carolina. The workshop presented ways to increase the levels of safety, competency, and security for pesticide applicators and workers.

They also discussed innovative educational and regulatory tools and projects, new compliance issues and information on the needs, trends, and successes in different state programs.



clapping hands

Worker Protection Inspections at Weyerhaeuser

by Jason Baker

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Pesticide being applied to crops



Weyerhaeuser logo

Worker Protection Inspections at Weyerhaeuser

by Jason Baker

On August 18-20, Josh Branch and Eric Pearson, CPS Pesticide Inspectors observed herbicide applications to six pine plantation settings in eastern McCurtain County by Weyerhaeuser helicopter operations, and conducted EPA Worker Protection Standard inspections. Applicator interviews were conducted with mechanic Jerry Cotton and Steve Blocker, pilot/applicator. The applications were being made to young pine plantations which were 1 to 3 years old. The applications were either Arsenal herbicide or

Arsenal and MSM E-Pro herbicides. The target species of the applications was to hardwood brush and saplings for conifer release. Application was made with a Bell 210 helicopter with saddle tanks and raindrop nozzles. The Weyerhaeuser helicopter operation is based out of DeQueen, Arkansas.

Helicopter used by Weyerhaeuser to make herbicide applications to pine plantations



Pesticide Program Management in the 21st Century

by Mike Vandeventer

In August Mike Vandeventer, Pesticide Complaint Program Administrator, attended an EPA sponsored meeting on Pesticide Program Management in the 21st Century. This meeting focused on EPA's current and future priorities including new technologies.

The increased market presence of generic pesticides, nanotechnology and web-distributed labeling were discussed. The recent court ruling concerning the requirement of a National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act to apply pesticides into, over or near water was discussed. The aquatic pesticide regulations in California were discussed as an example of how this program will work in other states.



New technologies image

Africanized Honey Bees

by Don Molnar

Bee activity for August has remained low with ten calls from the public. Two of the calls concerned yellow jackets wasps. Eric Pearson, Apiary Inspector received a call from someone with a house on Grand Lake in eastern Oklahoma who was stung multiple times from what he thought were honey bees. Eric discovered a nest of yellow jacket wasps and eliminated them.

Three samples of suspected African bees collected elsewhere were sent to the OSU Laboratory for identification. Based on the DNA test they were all identified as European honey bees.

A follow up on a report of a serious stinging incident near Hydro Oklahoma revealed that a man mowing grass was attacked and stung more than 400 times by bees from a colony that was established under his mobile home. His wife was also stung more than 200 times. Mr. Ward of Sinor Emergency Medical Services in Hydro said the man spent 3days in the hospital and his wife one night. Mr. Ward also said one of the EMS employees who responded to the call was stung about 15 times and had to be medi-flighted to University of Oklahoma Medical Center for treatment due to an allergic reaction to the stings. Based on the nature of the attack it

appears the bees are Africanized. A sample of the bees was sent to the Laboratory at OSU for DNA testing. The stinging incident was reported in the Weatherford Daily News and The Clinton Daily News.



Large nests of Yellow Jackets in a bale of hay

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Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association Board of Directors Meeting

by Wade Krivanek

The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association held their quarterly meeting on August 28,. Wade Krivanek, Seed Program Administrator, hosted the meeting and reported current activities involving seed testing and regulations.

Directors from each region of the state presented certified crop reports and shared information about current crop and field conditions in their areas. The reports suggest that there should be a good supply of certified seed wheat available for this planting season, however, it is still recommended that producers book their seed now to ensure they have enough seed for planting. Accordingly, although there were large amounts of shrinkage discovered during processing, the quality of most of the seed wheat has been good. The varieties with the highest demand have been OK Bullet, Endurance, and Fuller. Additionally Jeff Wright, Director of Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks in Stillwater, indicated that there are limited amounts of seed available for the two newest OSU varieties Billings and Pete.

ODAFF Aflatoxin Blending Policy

by Aaron Elam

As a result of the weather conditions experienced during this year's growing season, early indications are that the Oklahoma corn crop may be severely impacted by aflatoxin contamination.

ODAFF issued a press release notifying corn producers of the potential problem and encouraged them to have fields tested prior to harvesting their crop.

Additionally, the Department has implemented an emergency rule that will allow for the blending of corn that currently exceeds the limits allowed for use in animal

feed, pursuant to certain restrictions. Only lots of whole corn originally containing more than 300 ppb but no more than 500 ppb of total aflatoxins are allowed to be blended. The final lot of blended corn must contain less than 200 ppb of total aflatoxins, and it may only be used as a feed ingredient intended for finishing beef cattle fed in confinement. Each facility blending corn must maintain records, and the blended corn must be properly labeled as outlined in the emergency rule. The blended corn would be limited to intra-

state distribution as interstate distribution of blended corn is a violation of FDA regulations.



corn crops