

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of Pest Management Policy

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Contents

- Introduction to the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP).
- Overview of pesticide regulatory processes.
- How professionals in agriculture, including IPM coordinators, can provide input on federal pesticide regulation.
- Current status of EPA Registration Review and Other Activities



Office of Pest Management Policy

- OPMP is in the USDA Office of the Chief Economist.
- We are responsible for:
 - developing USDA policy on pest management, pesticides, and agricultural biotechnology;
 - consulting with stakeholders on pest management-related actions taken by USDA and other agencies; and
 - interagency coordination with EPA, FDA, and other federal and state regulatory agencies.
- <https://www.usda.gov/oce/pest/about>



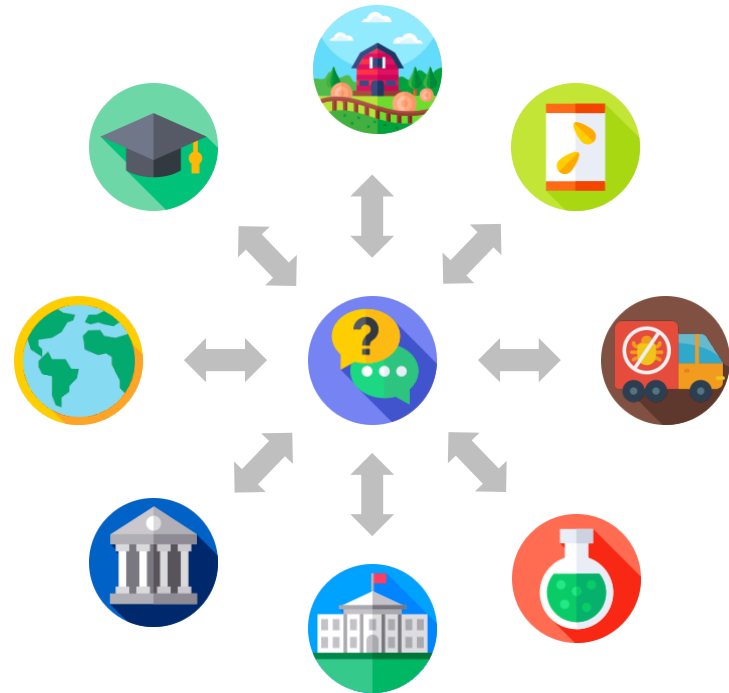
Office of Pest Management Policy

- Interdisciplinary, collaborative group
 - Sheryl Kunickis, Director (retired)
 - Clayton Myers, Acting Director, Entomologist
 - Elyssa Arnold, Regulatory Risk Assessor (Ecology and Env. Fate)
 - Anastasia Bodnar, Agricultural Biotechnology Advisor
 - Julie Chao, Regulatory Risk Assessor (Human Health)
 - Cameron Douglass, Agronomist/Weed Scientist
 - Julius Fajardo, Plant Pathologist
 - Seth Wechsler, Agricultural Economist
 - Lori Quade, Administrative Officer
- Contact information and bios:
<https://www.usda.gov/oce/pest/office-staff>



OPMP Stakeholders

- Growers
- Pesticide applicators
- Pesticide registrants
- Federal agencies
- State agencies
- Extension agents
- Congress
- International agencies



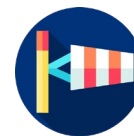
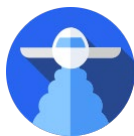
Federal Pesticide Regulation

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for federal pesticide regulation.
 - Evaluate potential harm from pesticides to humans, wildlife, and water resources.
 - Approve pesticide labels with use directions and restrictions intended to reduce risk.
 - Conduct periodic re-evaluation of pesticide registrations (every 15 years).



OPMP's Role in Pesticide Regulation

- OPMP provides agricultural context and usage information to assist EPA in pesticide regulation.
- Examine EPA's inputs for assessing risks (typical usage vs worst case assumptions).
 - What is the pesticide used for?
 - How is the pesticide applied?
 - Where is the pesticide applied?
 - How much of the pesticide is used?
 - What are the existing label use directions and restrictions?



OPMP's Role (continued)

- Help EPA to assess potential impacts of proposed changes to label use directions and restrictions.
 - Proposed changes may unnecessarily restrict or limit use of a pesticide.
 - Proposed changes may be expensive or difficult for farmers or applicators to implement.
- Provide information about benefits.
 - Availability or viability of alternative methods to control a pest.
 - Comparative risks of available alternatives.
 - Importance of a pesticide to integrated pest management or to resistance management.



Public Comments

- EPA posts draft and final documents for public review.
 - Ecological risk assessments
 - Human health risk assessments
 - Preliminary interim decisions
 - New pesticide active ingredients or new uses
 - Rulemaking and other policy proposals



Public Comments

- Comments are typically made through [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).
- Anyone can provide public comments within the open comment period.



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Substantive Comments

- Raise **scientific, legal, or technical** issues relevant to the proposed action.
- Specific examples, citing published literature, economic data, personal experience.
- Describe how the action could impact you, or your business, research, institution, stakeholders...
- Answer specific questions posed by an agency.
- Send comments to OPMP!



Reg. Review Cases of Note

- October 2022 deadline for finishing--*difficult cases still remain*
- Numerous fungicides, including triazoles and multi-site protectant active ingredients
- Organophosphate insecticides
- Neonicotinoid insecticides
- Pyridine/pyrimidine herbicides
- Post-harvest fumigants



ESA and Other Regulations

- EPA 'Biological Evaluations' for Carbaryl, Methomyl, Glyphosate, Triazines, Neonicotinoids
- FWS and NMFS 'Biological Opinions' for Malathion, Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Herbicides, 1,3-D
- Litigation Support to EPA on behalf of important pesticide benefits for agriculture
- Informal Working Group with EPA and stakeholders on Compost Residue Concerns



Learn More

- Learn more about OPMP:
<https://www.usda.gov/oce/pest>
- Learn more about pesticide registration:
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/about-pesticide-registration>
- Learn more about pesticide reevaluation:
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-reevaluation/registration-review-process>
- Learn more about providing public comments:
<https://www.regulations.gov/help>
- Images via [Flaticon.com](https://www.flaticon.com).

