Arkansas Crop Protection Association

ACPA Newsletter

2017

Volume 41 Number 1

Silent Auction Raises Funds for Scholarships at 2017 Arkansas Crop Management Conference

The 2017 Scholarship Auction was a HUGE success at the ACMC! It wouldn't have been possible without all the donors as well as the folks that came to bid on items. We were able to raise $3,750 for scholarships this year, which is near the record! Thanks to all of the folks and companies that donated items.

Raffle Items:
Browning A5 Shotgun – RiceCo LLC: Brad Veazey, Jordan Tomlinson, Ross Wood
2-Man Duck Hunt at Buckshot Lodge – BASF: Arkansas BASF Crew

Silent Auction Items:
Ruger 10/.22 Rifle – Monsanto: Darryl Loggains
Cotton Boll Door Hanger – Nichino: Alex Truszkowski
Drake Vest – Nichino: Byrne Carpenter
Beach Towel/3 Tervis Tumblers – Bayer: Steve Lee
Frenzy Feeder Duck Decoy – Armor Seed: Curtis Fox
U of A vs FAMU Football Tickets – Monsanto: Chet Chaney
Orca Cooler – RiceTec: Mason Wallace
Yeti Cooler – Valent: Mallory Everett, Mike Morris
Spindle Cross – Keith Perkins
2 Bottles of Robert Mondavi Wine – Nichino: Terry Gairhan
Cordless Drill – Pioneer: Chuck Ligon
Two $100 Gift Cards – Progeny: Jack Coleman
Tanglefree Optifade Sitka Waterfowl Bag – CNI: Sunni Booker
Yeti Hopper 20 – Dow AgroSciences: Derek Clarkson

Without the support of the donors as well as the bidders, we wouldn't be able to support the future of our industry like we do with these scholarships. THANK YOU! If you have any ideas about how to better raise money for scholarships for the 2018 ACMC, please email John Schultz at john.schultz@basf.com or Jared Fannon at jared.fannon@syngenta.com.

Joint Legislative Ag Committee Hears Testimony on Dicamba Bans Use in Arkansas After Over 615 Complaints

The Arkansas Joint House and Senate Ag Committee met Friday, July 7, 2017 to review the situation on dicamba. Dr. Ford Baldwin was a primary expert witness saying that he had always viewed the use of dicamba as a train wreck waiting to happen. Evidently, he convinced the legislatures that this was the case for they agreed and placed into effect a 120-day ban on the sale and use of dicamba in Arkansas that will go into effect Tuesday, July 11 after the Arkansas State Plant Board files the emergency rule with the Secretary of State's Office. Furthermore, an increase of the civil penalty for dicamba application misuse of up to $25,000 will go into effect August 1. Missouri also voted to ban the use of dicamba effective immediately.

The Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB) investigates in response to complaints or allegations filed by citizens. Each year, the ASPB handles a significant number of complaints relating to alleged chemical misuse; the complaints may name a suspected chemical, but until inspectors are able to get on site and diagnose based on symptomology and collect records, there is no way to make a determination on the chemicals used. During 2017, the ASPB has worked to investigate higher than normal volume of dicamba-related complaints. So far this year, over 615 complaints concerning dicamba have been filed with the Arkansas State Plant Board.

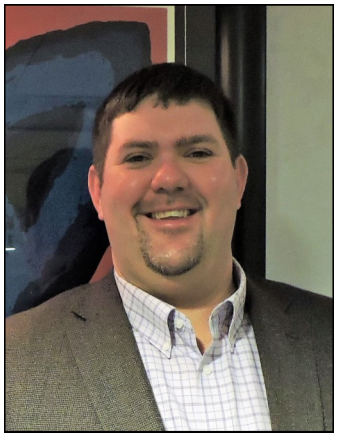
Dicamba is a selective herbicide in the chlorophenoxy family of chemicals. It comes in several salt formulations and an acid formulation. It is a common herbicide used in getting rid of weeds and woody plants. Dr. Baldwin pointed out that the volatility posed of dicamba posed the greatest threat to Arkansas soybeans and estimated that over one million acres of soybeans had been effected and damage was estimated at between 150 and 300 million dollars.

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- Crop Management Conference Planning Committee Meeting, August 24
- University of Arkansas Rice College, August 3
- Arkansas Crop Management Conference, January 16-18, 2018
- Dicamba Use Ban in effect for 120 days

ACPA President Kyle Colwell Reports on Activities During the Past Few Months



Kyle Colwell, 2017 President of Arkansas Crop Protection Association

For a usual down time, ACPA has been pretty busy the past few months and if you are not aware of House Bill 1725, we obviously don't have your email address. Our Executive Director, Don Johnson has worked tirelessly over several months to keep us informed of the important issues regarding this bill and what it means to row crop agriculture in Arkansas specifically. House Bill 1725 was labeled as an "efficiency" bill that would be utilizing a type 4 transfer. We started asking questions and realized other originations had very similar questions/concerns. We called a meeting in Calrlisle, on March 9th in conjunction with APFA, ACCA,CCA, Aerial Applicators, Seed Dealers, Seed Growers, Soybean Association and Farm Bureau. After meeting with Secretary Ward the following day, there was still a feeling of uncertainty among the group. We think that sharing people, resources is a great way to conduct business, but that did not seem like the motivation behind this bill. This bill would have given all the power to the secretary of Ag, who is appointed by the governor. We feel the Arkansas State Plant Board is functioning independent of political pressure and it's our belief we need to keep it that way. It was the decision of our Board of Directors to publicly oppose this bill due to concerns with the Arkansas State Plant Board and their abilities to remain autonomous. Since then, the bill as been presented and voted down three times. Thanks again for Don Johnson sending us information as it was new to these issues. It turned into a full time job for everyone involved and we have all learned lots about how our state government works.

"The Arkansas Crop Management Conference Is January 16-18, 2018"

Arkansas Crop Management Conference Program Committee Meets August 24

Kyle Colwell is President for 2017

The ACMC program committee will meet on August 24 to plan the ACMC program for 2018. Chairman Chris Grimes is laying out plans for an excellent program. Issues encountered in 2016 will be a prime factor in determining the program. Dicamba drift and the ban this year will be reviewed in detail and new approaches to weed control addressed. Participants will include Arkansas Crop Protection Association, Arkansas Plant Food Association, Arkansas Agricultural Consultants Association, Arkansas Certified Crop Advisors and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. If you have suggestions, contact any representative of the mentioned groups or Chairman Chris Grimes. The ACMC meeting this past January had around 504 attendees. We expect a large attendance again this year so be sure and register early and make hotel reserva-

Dr. Rick Cartwright address ACMC at awards luncheon reviewing IPM options for the future.

Chris Grimes is President Elect and Chairman of ACMC program.

Arkansas Crop Protection Association Elects Officers at the Annual Meeting.

Election of officers for ACPA was conducted at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the Arkansas Crop Management Conference January 19-21, 2016. Officers elected this year were President Elect Kyle Colwell moving to position of President. Kyle works with Dow AgroScience and has been active on ACPA board and the worked on sustaining membership committee. He served as Program Chairman of ACMC this past year. Chris Grimes is President Elect and ACMC program chair for 2018 Crop Management Conference. He currently works the University of Arkansas, serves on the ACPA board and coordinates the Arkansas Crop Management Conference support activities.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke will continue as Vice President. The Vice President also serves as Chairman of the Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference in Fayetteville each year.

Jared Fannon with Syngenta and Craig Shelton with Gavilon were elected as board members serving in the Industry Board Positions. Dr. Nick Seiter was elected to the Academia Board Position. He currently is Extension Entomologist with the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Ford Baldwin's Perspective on Dicamba Delivered to Legislative Ag Committee July 7, 2017

I will give one weed scientists point of view on the science surrounding the dicamba issue. The current status of herbicide technology is that the last new herbicide Mode of Action is over 30 years old. Also, the short term survival of chemical weed control as we have known it now depends upon 4 postemergence herbicides all tied up in competing seed trait technologies. Roundup Ready failed on driver weeds like Palmer amaranth 10 years ago. Now the herbicides we relied upon to back Roundup with called the PPO inhibitors are failing. Liberty Link technology is forced to be overused and we cannot afford to lose it. Therefore I fully understand the need for new technologies. I fully understand that growers planting Xtend crops are happy with the weed control and I know the agronomic genetics are good. In the proper programs, weed control in Xtend crops has been very good in research as it has been in several other current and developing technologies.

This weed scientist believes herbicides are a wonderful thing if they do their intended job AND they can be used without causing harm to others. In this case the second part is not happening and that is why we are here considering a ban on dicamba.

There is an equally large segment that are happy with their Roundup Ready's and do not wish to pay an increased trait fee; there are those happy with Liberty Link soybeans and wish to continue to use it as a diversity tool; some want to grow Non-GMO soybeans for specialty markets for a premium; some want to grow food beans for a specialty market and so on.

A wedge has been driven between these groups just as I predicted 4 to 5 years ago and tensions and tempers are running extremely high in the field.

Dicamba was developed in the 1960's as a corn herbicide. In Arkansas it has primarily been used as a pasture herbicide and for vegetation burn down prior to planting in soybean, cotton and other crops.

It is a synthetic auxin herbicide which produces auxin- like or hormone-like symptoms in susceptible plants. These can include cupping, twisting, stunting, yield loss, and carryover into seed that can then produce symptoms in the progeny if planted. Dicamba has a volatility component, which means it can change from a liquid or solid to a vapor after spraying, that can move off target in addition to the physical drift of spray particles moving. Since its development there has been research on both volatility and efficacy of different formulations.

Common formulations you hear about are the DMA salts like Banvel, DGA salts like Clarity, and now Engenia. DMA salts are the most volatile, DGA are less volatile and Engenia the least volatile. Note however Engenia is not NON VOLATILE.

Previous uses of dicamba have been earlier in the season when temperatures are cooler, susceptible crops were not emerged, and perennial vegetation not leafed out. The use in the Xtend crops is the first broad scale use of dicamba in summer temperatures with crops and vegetation emerged.

When dicamba symptoms first appear and you go to investigate, these fields will have textbook drift patterns in them and often times the source of the drift is obvious. It lulls you into thinking maybe things will be alright.

In the lower use areas this pretty much remains the case. A lot of these fields get hit once and recovery can occur. This is why you may hear "we aren't having much problem in this county or this state."

However in the higher use areas this year such as Mississippi, Crittenden, Craighead, east Poinsett, Lee, Phillips and Monroe counties, around 2 to 3 weeks after the drift symptoms show up the bomb goes off!

Now every field of non Xtend soybeans in these areas are affected, those at similar growth stages affected to the same degree, every field showing perfectly uniform symptoms and some of these are miles from a nearest Xtend field. There is no way I can describe it to you and you be able to fathom it unless you go see it. It is impossible for this pattern to be caused by physical drift, and little of it is being caused by accumulation of physical spray particles in a stable atmosphere or temperature inversion as some contend.

What is happening though is volatiles of dicamba are accumulating as vapors in stable atmosphere or inversions and blanket-covering large areas.

This volatility component of the current dicamba formulations is the part that cannot be fixed. That is also why simple sounding things like only allowing spraying to occur at certain hours or requiring hooded sprayers are not going to fix anything.

We knew the problems in 2016 were caused by higher volatility formulations being used illegally. For 2017, those of us involved hung our hat on the newer, lower volatility formulations along with ultra coarse sprays and required training to hopefully the problem. The answer to that now is obvious. Has there been off label applications and even some use of illegal formulations this year- I am sure. Do I believe this is the reason for continued problems absolutely not? Do I believe it is a few outlaws causing most of the problem absolutely not. Xtend is an all or nothing technology. I have written that and stated that every time I have been asked to speak on the subject. There are really only 2 choices as I see it. You stop the use of dicamba at a certain date OR you allow the current marketing model to force 100% of the acres to dicamba. The latter would provide a short term soybean solution for those that want to use it.

Here is the down side. First you eliminate the ability of growers to plant the other types of soybeans discussed at the beginning. Second it eliminates diversity because other technologies cannot be grown without injury; third it will fail quickly from a resistance standpoint- we already know PPO resistant Palmer is more tolerant to dicamba than susceptible populations and University of Arkansas Weed Scientists have shown dicamba resistance can develop within 3 years. We must get smarter than a weed with no brain and quit using up technologies one at a time; fourth, it eliminates the development of newer technologies that actually have better herbicide packages in them compared to dicamba. Every soybean breeding location in the midsouth has been hit, as well as variety trials, and seed production fields. Then you move on to crops like peanuts, horticulture crops, gardens, trees, landscape plants and the like.

In my 43 years as a weed scientist there are 4 things I never dreamed I would see and I feel I am watching agriculture be destroyed before my eyes. 1. Farmers would be indiscriminately threatening each others livelihoods with chemical trespass. 2. Companies that would put forth a technology that would drive a wedge between farmers and also agriculture and non agriculture and then refuse to take ownership of the fallout that is occurring. 3. That a federal regulatory agency (EPA) would allow a herbicide registration when they knew these risks were great. They did it and they are the ones that need to fix it. However they are worried about endangered species and not crop damage and leave the crop damage part up to the states. Our state has taken their role in trying to deal with it seriously. 4. That herbicide science and behavior could get so embroiled in politics. You have the best weed science faculty in the nation at the University of Arkansas. Go a step further and take in Jason Bond in MS, Larry Steckel in TN and Kevin Bradley on MO and you have the very best collective group you could assemble in the world. They can guide you if this is a science issue. If it is going to be purely a political issue all the scientists in the world can't help you. I can tell you that this weed scientist would make a poor politician. I am afraid you may find out politicians make poor weed scientists. Weeds and Herbicides do not understand politics!

We're on the web:
acpanews.com

2017 Arkansas Rice College

By Dr. Jarod Hardke, University of Arkansas Rice Specialist

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in partnership with the Arkansas Crop Protection Association will be hosting the 2017 Rice College on August 3, 2017, at the Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart, AR, starting at 8:00 a.m. and running through 1:00 p.m. Crop consultants, industry personnel, and producers will see current research on many of the production challenges Arkansas rice producers are experiencing today. Participants will hear presentations from University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture personnel and have the opportunity to take part in hands-on demonstrations. Registration for the 2017 Rice College will be $75 per person. Only online registrations will be accepted, and no walkup registrations will be accepted the day of the Rice College. Online registration can be found at the ACPA website. Total participants in the 2017 Soybean College will be capped at 120 participants to keep breakout groups small. Paid participants will receive a complementary sweep net, hand lens, and other items. Registration fees will not be refunded due to inclement weather. Lunch will be provided, and CEUs will be available. Please refer all questions about the 2017 Rice College to Jarrod Hardke at jhardke@uaex.edu or 501-772-1714.

Register online:

https://acpanews.com/

Tentative Agenda:

- Breeding for Rice Varieties and Hybrids
- Insect Scouting Demonstration
- Measuring Irrigation Flow and MIRI Demonstration
- New Herbicide Technologies
- Determining Midseason N Needs with Greenseeker
- Zinc Fertilization
- Disease Identification Clinic
- Alternative Nitrogen Management Schemes
- Replant Considerations

Dr. Jarrod Hardke is coordinating the Rice College.