

PCG Elects New Officer Team, Executive Committee Members

Friday, April 13, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Stacy Smith of New Home, Texas, was elected president of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., for 2018-2019 during PCG's quarterly Board of Directors meeting last week in Lubbock.

Joining Smith on the PCG officer team are Brent Nelson of Sudan, Texas, elected vice president; and, Martin Stoerner of Lockney, elected secretary-treasurer of the 41-county cotton producer organization. The immediate past president, Johnnie Reed of Kress, serves as chairman of the board.

Each year the PCG Board also elects a total of nine directors, three from each of the organization's three districts, to serve on the Executive Committee alongside the organization's three elected officers and two most recent past presidents.

Members elected to the 2018-2019 PCG Executive Committee are: District 1 representatives Brent Coker of Springlake, Barry Evans of Kress, and Jon Jones of Floydada; District 2 representatives David Carter of Levelland, Scott Harmon of Idalou, and Travis Mires of O'Donnell; District 3 representatives Jeremy Brown of Lamesa, Carl Pepper of Borden County, and Al Spinks of Midland; President Stacy Smith of New Home, Vice President Brent Nelson of Sudan, Secretary-Treasurer Martin Stoerner of Lockney, Board Chairman Johnnie Reed of Kress, and Past President Shawn Holladay of Lamesa.

Cotton Ginning Cost Share Signups Happening Now!

Contact Your Local FSA Office
More Info: <http://fsa.usda.gov/cgcs>

Highlights from the 2018 Auxin Certification Training in Texas

April 2018

From Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Auxin Certification Training has not been taken lightly across the state of Texas. Trainings started in January and to date have been a part of programs or has been the stand-alone topic at over 100 Texas locations.

This training was mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for all individuals who will be applying three newly formulated dicamba products because of the large number of off-target movement claims that occurred across several states in 2017. The three newly registered low-volatility dicamba herbicides are: XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology (Monsanto, which received federal approval in November 2016), Engenia® Herbicide (BASF, approved December 2017), and DuPont® FeXapan® herbicide Plus VaporGrip® Technology (approved February 2017). In late 2017, EPA approved label revisions for these products, which are set to expire in November/December of 2018. Label

renewals will depend largely on on-target application success in 2018. This training applies to all labeled uses of these herbicides. Enlist Duo™ and Enlist ONE™ are not a part of this required training, although the principles of on-target application can be applied to all herbicide applications.

This training not only satisfies the federal requirement, but also satisfies the Texas Department of Agriculture requirement for auxin specific training. XtendiMax®, Engenia®, and FeXapan® were recently reclassified as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs).

This training is not a substitute for the Certified Applicator training, and the purchase and use of RUPs can only be made by Certified Applicators or persons under their direct supervision. All individuals making an application of XtendiMax®, Engenia®, and FeXapan® in 2018 must complete the mandatory Auxin Certification Training.

Highlights of the Auxin Certification Training are given below:

1. Recordkeeping is required for all XtendiMax®, Engenia®, and FeXapan® applications.
 - a. The certified applicator must keep required records for a period of two years.
 - b. Records must be generated as soon as practical but no later than 14 days after application.
 - c. If 10 fields are sprayed, 10 sets of records are required, including if the same field is sprayed twice.
 - d. Records must be made available to State Pesticide Control Official(s), USDA, and EPA upon request.
 - e. Application record keeping forms may be found at:
 - i. https://ifca.com/files/Dicamba_Recordkeeping_Form-DEC_2017.pdf
 - ii. http://agproducts.basf.us/campaigns/engenia/assets/pdf/Dicamba_record_keeping_form_12-15-17.pdf
 - iii. http://www.dupont.com/content/dam/dupont/products-and-services/crop-protection/documents/en_us/cp_FX-9_FeXapan_Application_Record_application_v1.pdf
2. Locate susceptible crops and sensitive areas around your dicamba tolerant crop field and develop an application plan.
 - a. Adjacent susceptible plants. DO NOT APPLY when the wind is blowing toward adjacent susceptible crops, which includes non-dicamba tolerant cotton and soybean. Susceptible crops include but are not limited to tomatoes and other fruiting vegetables (EPA crop group 8), fruit trees, cucumber and melons (EPA crop group 9), grapes, beans, flowers, ornamentals, peas, potatoes, sunflower, tobacco, other broadleaf plants, and including plants in a greenhouse. Contact with foliage, green stems, or fruit of crops or any

desirable plants that do not contain a dicamba tolerance gene or are not naturally tolerant to dicamba could result in severe injury or destruction.

- b. Sensitive areas. Maintain the required buffer to protect sensitive areas that may contain endangered species. The buffer zone IS NOT about managing drift to susceptible crops. The applicator must always maintain a downwind buffer between the last treated row and the nearest downwind field edge (in the direction the wind is blowing) for all uses of these products. Maintain an infield or out-of-field buffer (paved or gravel roads; fields prepared for planting; fields planted to corn, dicamba-tolerant cotton, sorghum, and small grains) of 110 feet (when applying 0.5 lb acid equivalent (ae) per acre) or 220 feet (when applying > 0.5 lb ae up to 1.0 lb ae per acre)
3. Use only approved, low-volatility formulations of dicamba (XtendiMax®, Engenia®, and FeXapan®)
4. Use only approved herbicides, other pesticides, and additives as tank-mix partners which have been found not to adversely affect off-target movement (OTM) potential. Approved tank mix partners can be found using the links below. Some tank mix partners require an approved drift reduction agent (DRA). Follow the recommended tank mix order for the DRA used. Tank mix partners can be found at
 - a. XtendiMax®, xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com
 - b. Engenia®, www.engeniatankmix.com
 - c. FeXapan®, www.fexapanapplicationrequirements.dupont.com

Applicators are required to consult specific product website no more than 7 days before application for a complete list of DRAs and other herbicides, pesticides, and additives approved for use with dicamba.
5. DO NOT add ammonium sulfate (AMS) or other acidifying adjuvants to the tank when applying dicamba. AMS will increase the volatility of dicamba even in small amounts.
6. Use approved nozzles within specified operating pressure range when applying dicamba. Approved nozzles are listed on the websites given above. Applicators are required to consult specific product website no more than 7 days before application for a complete list of approved nozzles.
7. Apply when wind speeds are between 3 to 10 mph measured at the boom height.
8. Do not exceed a ground speed of 15 mph. It is recommended that tractor speed is reduced to 5 miles per hour at field edges provided the applicator can maintain the required nozzle pressure for appropriate spray pattern.
9. A minimum carrier volume of 15 gallons per acre (GPA) is required for XtendiMax® and FeXapan®, whereas a minimum of 10 GPA is required for Engenia®.
10. Maximum boom height above the spray target is 24-inches. The potential for OTM increases substantially as boom height increases.

11. Do not apply these products between sunset and sunrise because of concerns regarding temperature inversions leading to off-target movement.
12. Do not apply these products during a temperature inversion. During a temperature inversion, the atmosphere is very stable and vertical air mixing is restricted, which can cause small, suspended droplets to remain in a concentrated cloud. The inversion will typically dissipate with increased winds (>3 mph) or at sunrise when the surface air begins to warm (~3°F from morning low). Inversions can be identified by the movement of smoke from a ground source or an aircraft smoke generator. Smoke that layers and moves laterally in a concentrated cloud (under low wind conditions) indicates an inversion. The potential for OTM can increase during a temperature inversion.
13. Do not apply these products if rain is expected in the next 24 hours because of the possibility of runoff from applied areas to sensitive areas.
14. Do not apply these products aerially!
15. Spray system used to apply dicamba must be clean before using these products. One of the big concerns is contamination from AMS.
16. Clean spray systems immediately after using dicamba. Refer to specific product labels for cleanout procedures. Do not allow the spray solution to remain in the system overnight prior to flushing. Failure to properly clean the entire system can result in inadvertent contamination of the spray system. Even very small quantities of dicamba may cause injury to susceptible crops. All rinse water must be disposed of in compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines.
17. If you have any questions regarding the use of XtendiMax®, Engenia®, and FeXapan®, visit with any of the authors on this newsletter or with the manufacturers of these products. On-target applications must be a priority in 2018.

Written by Peter Dotray, Extension Weed Specialist, Lubbock; Scott Nolte, State Extension Weed Specialist, College Station; Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi; Gaylon Morgan, State Extension Cotton Specialist, College Station; and Seth Byrd, Cotton Agronomist, Lubbock

Upcoming Auxin-Specific Herbicide Trainings

The Texas Department of Agriculture requires special training in 2018 for new auxin herbicides applied under a Section 3 approval on dicamba-tolerant cotton.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting several of these training opportunities as follows:

April 16 – Tahoka Community Center, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., AND 11 a.m (three meetings)

April 17 – Castro County Extension Office, **Dimmitt**, 10 a.m.

April 23 – Tahoka Community Center, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., AND 11 a.m (three meetings)

April 24 – Ralls Methodist Church, 517 Watts Ave., 9 a.m.

April 24 – Parmer County Extension Office, **Bovina**, 10 a.m.

April 30 – Tahoka Community Center, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., AND 11 a.m (three meetings)

A complete list is available at www.plainscotton.org.

Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 41-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org