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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update on Required Dicamba Training for 2018

The 2017 growing season was filled with issues to talk about over the winter. Most winters are filled with discussion. For Major League Baseball it is called the Hot Stove when plans are made for the upcoming season. This may involve trades or adding or subtracting players from the roster. I no longer discuss the games played on Sundays, so let's talk weeds and the how we attempt to control them in our crop fields. What players or products should we put into our plans for the 2018 growing season and which products should we cut from out of our plans?

If you decided last year to use the new products that involved dicamba resistant soybeans, you may have some stories to tell. I have some from calls that I received during the summer. Some of the neighboring soybeans looked pretty messed up when I went out to some of the calls. At that time, I did not know what to expect long term, meaning at harvest. I have not heard much about reduced yield, not saying there no problems, but I have not heard. What I did see when I revisited some of the crops that looked pretty sad early, was that they improved and seemed to recover pretty well.

With that said, that does not mean there is not an issue. There are several issues when a product has an effect on the neighboring crop. Dr. Mark Loux, OSU Extension State Weed Specialist posted the following information in this week's CORN newsletter. This includes a link to the factsheet if you go online. If you do not have the internet and would like a copy, stop by your local OSU Extension Office.

Following a summer of many instances of off-target movement of dicamba across the country from use in Xtend soybeans, the labels for Engenia, XtendiMax, and FeXapan were modified in an attempt to reduce future problems. These products became restricted use pesticides, and an additional requirement is that anyone applying these products must attend annual dicamba or group 4 herbicide-specific training, and have proof that they did so. Details are still being worked out on this training for Ohio, but it will not be conducted by OSU Extension, or accomplished through OSU winter agronomy or pesticide recertification meetings. At this point, as far as we know it appears that it will be conducted by Monsanto, BASF, and DuPont at meetings held specifically by them for this purpose, and also possibly through an online training module. Final details and meeting schedules are not likely to be in place until after the first of the year. We will pass on information as we get it from ODA and companies, and applicators will undoubtedly receive this information from multiple other sources as well.

OSU, Purdue, and U. of Illinois have put together a fact sheet on stewardship of dicamba, which is available at our website – <http://u.osu.edu/osuweeds>. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of application requirements from labels, but it also contains some suggestions on stewardship that are not part of labels. Unlike the three companies selling these products, whose position is that applicator error was responsible for most off-target problems in 2017, university weed scientists concluded that



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volatilization of dicamba caused many of them. And we are not convinced that the label changes adequately address the potential for volatilization to occur, or provide conservative enough guidelines to help applicators assess how and where (and more important – where not) to apply dicamba in Xtend soybeans. OSU’s position on the use of dicamba in Xtend soybeans has not changed over the past year. We feel that off-target problems could be greatly minimized by restricting dicamba use to early-season, as a component of no-till burndown treatments. Dicamba has utility for control of marehail in the burndown, and there is just less emerged vegetation to damage earlier in the season should off-target movement occur. This is not to say there is no risk of movement or damage when used early-season. Just because risk to non-Xtend soybeans or other crops is low because they have not emerged yet, does not mean there is not risk to nearby fruit trees, vegetables, ornamentals, etc. However, postemergence use of dicamba accounted for most of the off-target problems in 2017, and we would expect a similar trend in 2018.

Dates to Remember

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| Dec. 11 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register by calling ODA at 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| Feb. 20 | Adams Co. Pesticide Re-certification at Frisch’s starting at 5:00 p.m. 3 hours of Pesticide and 1 hour of Fertilizer Re-certification. Must Pre-register. |
| Feb. 28 | Brown Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern Hills Board Office at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |
| Mar. 2 | Highland Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |