

**Fumigant Extension Education Development Team  
Maricopa Agricultural Center  
Thursday, August 19, 2010**

**Purpose:** The APMC has received EPA funding to develop educational materials and at least 6 live training sessions with users of soil fumigants. The trainings need to cover significant label changes and implementation of risk mitigation measures for soil fumigant use. Randy Norton was funded through an APMC proposal to provide leadership in developing and implementing the trainings. This is the first team meeting. Training must begin by early 2011, since many of the new EPA requirements go into effect at the first of the year.

**Participants:** Randy Norton, Kurt Nolte, Erin Taylor, Bill McCloskey, Peter Ellsworth, Al Fournier, Jack Peterson (by phone). Team members not present: Mike McClure, Jerome Otto (Dow AgroSciences), Mary Olsen and Jennifer Weber (Arizona Department of Agriculture).

**Meeting Notes**

**Identifying Resources and Needs**

- Prior to the meeting, Randy sent information and to the team that summarizes EPA's soil fumigation risk mitigation measures. Some measures go into effect in 2010 and the remainder will go into effect in 2011.
- EPA is behind schedule in developing the revised labels. Labels may not be in place prior to our training. But REDs have been developed.
- Randy: According to EPA's website & contacts from Dow, Telone formulations, unless they include chloropicrin, will not be included in new risk mitigation measures (at least initially). Telone C35 and C17 are affected because they have chloropicrin as an AI.
- The goal of this team is to identify where soil fumigants (and which products) are being used in Arizona and put together at least 6 targeted workshops across the state.
- Dow AgroSciences has a worker protection training program in place, headed up by Jerome Otto. Jerome will work with us on this team and is willing to participate in some of the trainings. He is currently teaching Telone users (workers) about PPE and how to handle Telone, including C35, the Chloropicrin / Telone combination. His next training will be in Feb.
- We reviewed 1080 data on soil fumigant use from 2000 to 2009. Dichloropropene (Telone) and metam-sodium (Vapam) are the main AIs used. Main uses are both AIs for cantaloupes, honeydews and other melons in LaPaz, Yuma and Maricopa counties; Telone use in cotton in Maricopa and Pinal counties; and Vapam use on fallow land in Yuma county. Less frequent use is reported (one or a few reported uses in the past 10 years) for metam-sodium on broccoli, canola, carrots, cilantro, citrus, corn, head lettuce, onions, parsley, spinach and wheat; less-reported dichloropropene uses are in broccoli, carrots, chiles, onions, potatoes and roses. It was noted that since Vapam is not an RUP, and is often grower applied, the 1080 data may underestimate Vapam use.
- Peter: there is also some fumigant use in the turf industry, which should be addressed in at least one training.

- There is a low level of awareness about these major label changes among clientele. We should engage agents to put information out in their communications with clientele over the short term, to raise awareness of the coming changes. AI should also send info out via the ACIS email list.

### **Who else should be involved?**

- Tessengerlo-Kerley company manufactures metam-sodium. Jerry Krebs is the contact person. (Peter provided contact information.) Randy will contact him as a potential resource or team member.
- Kai Umeda, Mary Olsen
- Ursula Schuch and Trent Teegerstrom have been heavily involved in worker safety training in the West. Should they be involved?
- ADA, Jack's office, will be hiring a full time person for a 2-year position, starting after Oct 1. This person is being hired specifically to address the need for soil fumigant training and will be available to present at the trainings. This person will be required to speak Spanish.
- Do we need to teach in Spanish as well? Jennifer Weber and others at ADA speak Spanish, may be willing to help. Jack will talk to her.

### **Training Topics and Logistics**

- We will need at least a half-day meeting to cover everything in the detail needed.
- Topics to include: worker protection, buffer zones, fumigant management plans.
- As part of the new requirements, applicators / growers have to develop site-based fumigant management plans that will provide detailed information on application practices and the site of application. The EPA resources outline what is required on these plans.
- Web-based fumigant management plans have been developed by Dow and Jerome Otto is willing to share this with the group, as a possible training tool.
- The fumigation management plan is a sort of a checklist that applicators need to fill out and keep on file in case there is a problem or emergency and if they are audited. The FMP should be a main focus of what we need to cover in the meetings.
- Right now EPA has posted FMPs for methyl bromide (as examples), but an FMP is supposed to be site specific. It talks about buffer zones, buildings, record keeping procedures, etc. Some is generic but some is site specific.
- Could do a hands-on meeting Maybe have a rig on site and review a site, help clientele develop their own management plans.
- Jack will attend as many of these meetings as he can. He would present on how ADA will enforce the new regulations.
- Randy and Jack reviewed a UC Davis soil fumigation manual, which seems too detailed to provide much help in developing our own materials.
- Presentations on any research being done on soil fumigants could be added to meetings as long as the main "how-to" topics do not fill a full 4 hours.
- Randy feels comfortable covering Telone in the trainings, since he has some experience. But our training may not necessarily break things down to a product-by-product level. Alternately, company reps can talk about any product-specific handling issues.

- Our target audience should be mainly limited to certified applicators and the handlers that assist in the application. The label will require the applicator to be present during an application.
- Should our training hit California users as well? It could. Certainly will seek CA credits and advertise W. AZ meetings on both sides.
- Meetings should strictly focus on the label changes, be hands-on and target the applicator/handler audience.
- AI can use 1080 data to ID specific people that we should target for training, and to ID equipment tag #. Also, agents will go to distributors and find out who is buying soil fumigants. Fertizona, Wilbur Ellis, Hellena, etc. Randy, at his Yuma presentation the end of the month will try to ID potential participants.
- Will we need to teach people how to fill out a 1080? Probably not. We should be dealing with mostly experienced users.

### Meeting Locations

- Yuma – at Ag Center, the earlier the better: mid-November meeting or December. Cantaloupe gets planted in late Jan, early Feb. Randy will be out in a couple of weeks and will ask growers when would be a good time.
- Buckeye – Buckeye growers want training in late Jan. Do one in conjunction with applications that are going out.
- Phoenix (turf) - Kai Umeda would like to host a Phoenix-based turf-centric meeting. Date unknown.
- Coolidge / MAC
- Wilcox – at SE AZ Ag day, Feb 2, they will have an afternoon session on soil fumigation and seed/bin fumigation
- Aguila – this or the Buckeye training will cover the LaPaz county uses, which are presumably mostly in E. LaPaz county.

### Follow-ups:

- Contact others to involve in the group: Kai Umeda, Mary Olsen, Jerry Krebs with Tessengerlo-Kerley company (Randy will contact). Jennifer Weber (Jack will contact)
- AI will pull 1080 data to ID applicators, equipment, and companies to target and will share info with the group.
- Everyone should look at the link that Peter sent out from OSHA in Oregon and review the material that Randy circulated. <http://www.orosha.org/ppt/pesticide/epa-soil-fumigation.pdf>
- Randy will find out what Jerome normally does in his trainings.
- Kurt, Randy and Rick G will each contact distributors in each of their regions.
- AI will set up a webpage for this committee as a place to post the various training materials we might draw from, meeting notes, etc.
- Randy will develop a tentative training agenda for the group to review.
- To increase awareness about soil fumigant label changes among clientele, Randy will **engage** other agents to put information out in their communications with clientele over the short term, to raise awareness of the coming changes. AI will send info out via the ACIS email list.

- Randy will send out a Doodle to schedule the next meeting.