

Strategic Program Review: Pesticide Safety Education Program



**Bill Diamond, Director
Field and External Affairs Division
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Review Rationale & Goal

PSEP = Pesticide Safety Education Programs: one of the lead providers of training for applicator competence

Review Drivers

- **Good government: effective program management requires periodic assessments**
- **Increased client demands highlighting operational issues**
- **Increased demands for accountability measures**
- **Budget pressures increases need to assess program purpose & priorities**

Scope

- **To determine how well the critical needs of pesticide applicator training are being met, with a specific focus on PSEP as a critical component**

Goal

- **Expert practitioner perspectives on full range of critical concerns to inform program managers about the future management, funding and direction of the program**

Review Process

- **WHO:**
 - Diverse client & practitioner representatives

- **HOW:**
 - Distribute information material and hold two discussion meetings
 - Identify review areas: goals, activities, measures, operations, future directions
 - Develop mission and critical questions for assessment group

- **WHAT:**
 - Collect practitioner perspectives on critical questions and publicize results of assessment

Review Expert Practitioner Group

- Rebeckah Freeman – American Farm Bureau
- Bob Rosenberg – National Pest Control Association
- Tom Hall – CropLife America
- Tom Delaney – Lawn Care Association of America
- Andrew Moore – National Agricultural Aviation Association
- Jack Peterson – Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Carl Martin – Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission
- Win Hock – AAPSE
- Keith Smith/Joanne Kick-Raack – Ohio SCES
- Zane Helsel – CES/ECOP
- Paul Craig – Pennsylvania County Agent
- Monte Johnson – USDA CSREES
- Brad Rein – USDA CSREES
- Ralph Otto – USDA CSREES
- Jeaneanne Gettle – EPA Region 4
- Kevin Keaney – EPA Certification & Worker Protection
- Bill Diamond – EPA Field and External Affairs

Critical Question Areas

Program Mission

- Is the mission clear & understood by all critical stakeholders?
- Is the scope appropriate, broad enough, consistent with statute and regulation, consistent with program needs?

Program Activities

- Are current activities appropriate?
- What are the training needs, priorities, audiences, gaps? Who are the training providers? What should be program partners' roles?

Program Accountability

- Are there clear, meaningful measures of program success?
- Are current measures appropriate / accurate? Characteristics (type, depth, quantity, ability to implement) considered? How do we balance accountability and reporting burden? How can we work together to improve measures?

Program Operations

- Is the program operating as efficiently and effectively as possible?
- How can we improve management of funds, coordination between state lead agencies and training providers, and other program operations? What other resources should be explored?

Future Direction

- Is the program moving in the right direction or are changes needed?
- What should be the program focus in the short-term & long-term?

Other

- How can we work together to implement assessment findings?

Review Findings

■ Discussions

- Broad in range and intense,
- Highlighted strengths and deficiencies of the program

■ Individual perspectives

- Included in the report, covered an array of opinions, provided specific suggestions for follow-up actions

■ Although there was no intent to reach consensus, there was general agreement on several common themes

- Address emerging and changing training needs
- Implement program efficiencies to maximize resources
- Establish accountability measures
- Improve funding mechanism

Areas for Follow-up Action

Operational Efficiencies

- **Improve Funding Mechanism**
 - Examine current fund distribution process
 - Improve accountability for funding
- **Set Training Priorities**
 - Prioritize training needs, determine who has responsibility for providing training to various audiences
- **Implement Program Efficiencies**
 - Develop strategies to meet critical needs with minimal resource burden
 - Encourage regional and national collaboration on material development

Essential Program Improvements

- **Expand the scope/coverage of certification regulations**
 - Require training/certification for a broader range of applicators to ensure public safety
- **Establish accountability measures**
 - Work with stakeholders to develop measures that are reasonable, implementable and not overly burdensome

Next Steps

OPP Actions

- Determine how to move forward
- Develop a workplan for each critical area identified
 - Tier regulation changes to the applicator certification regulation
 - IAG expires in 2006 – consider alternative funding mechanisms

PPDC Role

- Does PPDC want to be engaged at some level?
- If so, how and in which areas?
 - Briefing on planned regulatory revisions and expiration of IAG with USDA
 - Periodic briefings with updates on progress
 - Participation of individual members in follow-up activities
 - Establish a formal PPDC workgroup

Comprehensive Pesticide Worker Safety Program Assessment Report



**Bill Diamond, Director
Field and External Affairs Division
May 2005**

Assessment Scope

- 1. Worker protection program assessment activities
- 2. Certification and training assessment group activities
- Suggested improvements
- Strategic plan for the pesticide worker safety program

Assessment Background

- Based on issues raised by stakeholders, GAO & CHPAC
 - Gauge status of implementation & identify deficiencies and areas of improvement
1. **Worker Protection Assessment**
 - Series of public meetings and workgroups focused on broad program issues
 - Attendees included state and tribal partners, other federal agency representatives, farmworker advocates, cooperative extension, commodity organizations, industry, growers, and other stakeholders
 2. **Certification and Training Program Assessment**
 - Formed the Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG), comprised of expert practitioners from state, tribal and federal programs, as well as program managers from EPA and USDA

Assessment Report

- Captures the breadth of meeting discussions & areas to be addressed.
- Informs the public of response to date
- Outlines actions & future plans



1. Worker Protection Program Assessment

- **Grouping of Findings with Agency Response**
 - Program Outreach and Communication
 - Agricultural Worker Protection Training
 - Agricultural Worker Protection & Label Regulations
 - Incident Monitoring and Health Care
 - Hazard Communication
 - General Program Issues
 - Compliance and Enforcement

2. Certification & Training Assessment Group

- **Grouping of Findings with Agency Response**
 - Provide Quality Training Programs
 - Improve Applicator Competency
 - Ensure Adequate & Equitable Resources
 - Improve Program Operation & Efficiency



Pesticide Worker Safety – Strategic Scheme

Protect

Respond

Workers Exposed
to Pesticides

Training
Training Material
Labels
Regulatory Decisions
Risk Management Actions

Incidents:
Poisonings &
Enforcement

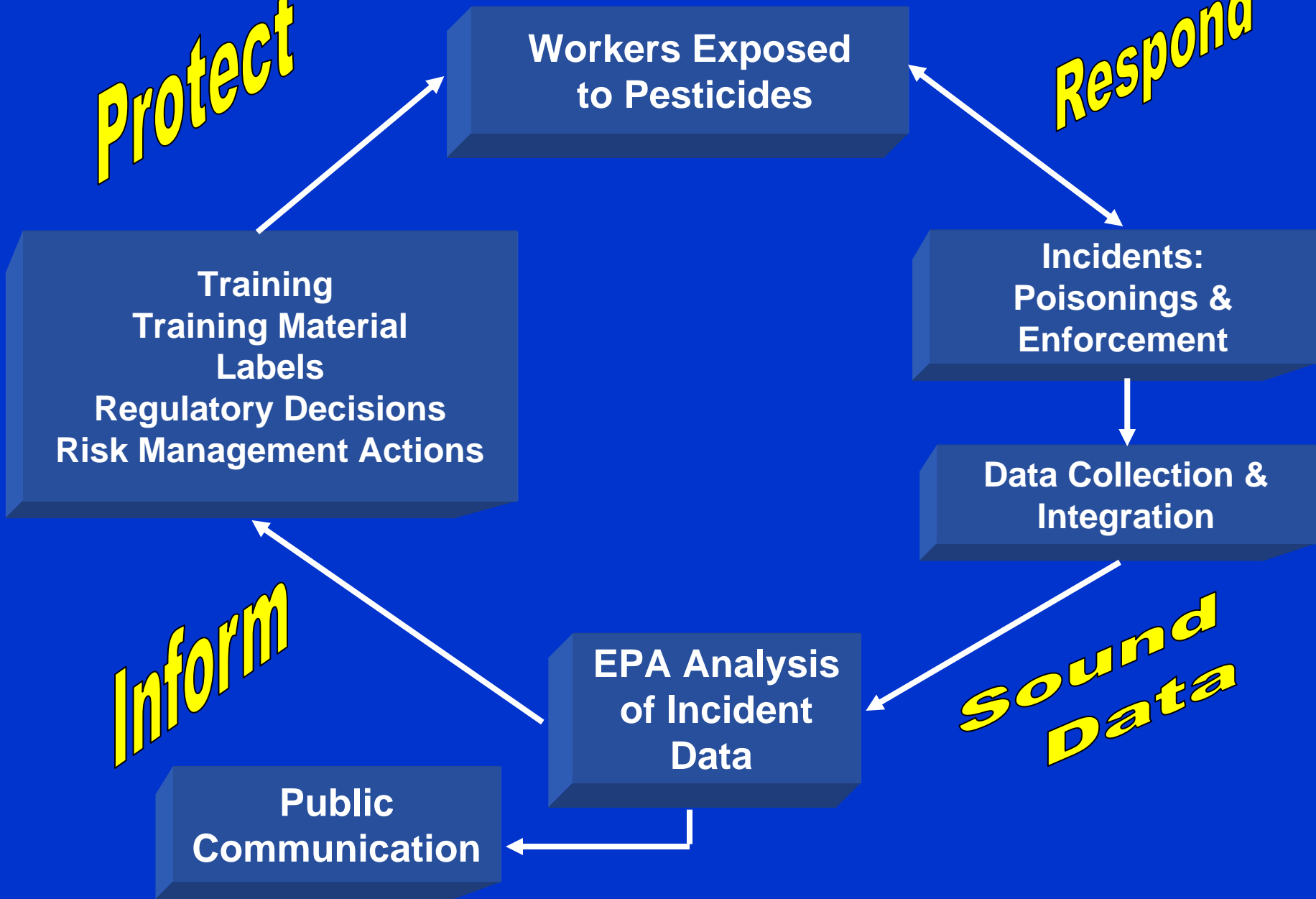
Data Collection &
Integration

Inform

**Sound
Data**

EPA Analysis
of Incident
Data

Public
Communication



Strategic Benefits of the Assessment

- **Greater Transparency**
- **Increased Awareness**
- **Better Program Coordination**
- **Visible Worker Safety Network**
- **Identified Areas for Program Improvement**



Specific Accomplishments: Completed or Underway

- **Improved Program Coordination and Guidance**
- **Improved Program Communication and Outreach**
- **Better Coordination with Stakeholders**
- **National Train-the-Trainer Materials**
- **Hazard Communication Program Development**
- **New National Core Exam and Manual for Pesticide Applicator Certification**

Priority Areas of Action

- **Worker Safety Workshops**
 - **Biennial, next planned for Spring 2006**

- **Potential Rule Revisions**
 - **Worker Protection Standard**
 - **Certification of Pesticide Applicators**

- **Improved Field Data Collection and Use**
 - **Pesticide Incident Database Project**
 - **Refine enforcement databases**

Next Steps

OPP Actions

- Continue to work activities that are already underway
- Begin work on priority areas for action
- Plan 2006 Worker Safety Workshop

PPDC Role

- Does PPDC want to be engaged at some level?
- If so, how and in which areas?
 - Briefing on planned Worker Protection regulatory revisions
 - Periodic briefings with updates on progress
 - Participation of individual members in follow-up activities
 - Establish a formal PPDC workgroup to participate in planning for the 2006 Worker Safety Workshop