

# PPDC AZM Transition Issues Workgroup

Report-Out for PPDC Meeting  
May 9, 2007

# Today's report-out includes:

- Overview of AZM decision
- Formation of workgroup
- Mission statement
- Progress to-date
- Next steps

# When was and why has this workgroup been formed?

- November 2006
  - EPA announced decision to phase-out Azinphos methyl (AZM)
  - Jim Jones announced the formation of a PPDC Workgroup on Transition Issues to help EPA and USDA carry out the planned AZM phase-out

# Overview of AZM decision:

- November 16, 2006 -- EPA issued final decision on AZM to phase-out remaining uses by September 30, 2012 – according to this schedule:
  - By September 30, 2007, phase out:
    - Brussels sprouts
    - Nursery stock
  - By October 30, 2009, phase out:
    - Almonds
    - Pistachios
    - Walnuts

# Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- AZM phase-out schedule (continued):

- By September 30, 2012, phase out:

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cherries
- Parsley
- Pears

All other uses have been voluntarily cancelled by the manufacturer.

## Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- EPA final AZM decision AZM includes implementation of mitigation measures during phase-out:
  - Mandatory ratcheting down of annual application rates
  - Larger buffer zones around water bodies
  - Buffers around houses and other occupied structures

## Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- Phase-out mitigation measures (continued):
  - Gradual elimination of the few remaining aerial applications
  - Post-application worker stewardship program

## Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- EPA final AZM decision includes “transition to alternatives” component:
  - Growers of AZM crop uses expected to successfully transition to available safer alternative pesticides
  - To facilitate transition, hold periodic meetings during phase-out to discuss available alternatives and newer/pipeline pesticides
  - EPA and USDA lead
  - Discuss at PPDC meetings

# What are the affiliations of workgroup members?

- Co-chairs are EPA (Rick Keigwin) and USDA (Allen Jennings)
- Workgroup members include:
  - Agriculture/farmer representatives
  - Environmental/consumer/farmworker representatives
  - Academia/public health/public foundation representatives
  - Food processor/distributor representative
  - Pesticide companies/trade association representatives
  - Cal-DPR representative
  - NAFTA partners from Canada's PMRA are observers

\*Workgroup includes several members of the PPDC

# What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Provide advice, through PPDC, to EPA and USDA on implementation EPA decision to phase-out remaining AZM uses, with the following objectives and goals:
  - Identifying framework for reasonable transition
  - Identifying ways to improve understanding of critical grower needs and perspectives of all stakeholders regarding the transition

# What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Workgroup objectives and goals (continued):
  - Identifying programs/mechanisms to provide reduced-risk pest management strategies and techniques to growers
  - Recommending ways to assist growers in their good faith efforts as they try AZM alternatives and feasible, cost-effective techniques

# What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Workgroup objectives and goals (continued):
  - Fostering transparency and public participation in decision-making
  - Providing process recommendations to ensure that AZM transition progress is tracked and assessed and reported back to PPDC

# What is the workgroup NOT charged with?

- Revisiting the EPA final AZM decision
- Discussing rationale for AZM decision
- Discussing pending litigation

# What has the workgroup accomplished thus far?

- Workgroup (public) meeting held March 6, 2007
- Day of brainstorming resulted in rough outline of basic transition strategy with components addressing four areas of concern:
  - Trade
  - Regulatory issues
  - Research and implementation
  - Impact assessment (to include economics, resistance management, sustainability...)

# What has the workgroup accomplished thus far?

- Two groups volunteered to draft case-studies:
  - Ohio parsley
  - Washington apples
- Two short workgroup teleconferences held along with many e-mail-exchanges
- Two matrices under development:
  - Crop/alternate approaches to pest management matrix
  - Regulatory matrix

# What is the status of the matrices and case-studies?

- Draft matrices in workgroup review
- Draft case-studies being revised after first-round review/comment

# What does the Ohio parsley case-study currently consist of?

- General cropping information
- Production practices
- Crop value
- Pest identification
- Potential pest management tools and cultural practices
- Tasks
- Timelines

# What other input is anticipated into the Ohio parsley case-study?

- Cost, availability, review status, effectiveness of alternate pest management tools
- Identification of barriers of adoption
- Practical realities and impacts of alternate approaches
- Necessary activities
- Education and outreach program

# What does the Washington apples case-study include?

- Focuses on production of fresh market apples in Washington State
- Builds on adoption of AZM replacement technologies already occurring within segment of apple industry
- Articulates understanding of benefits and problems faced by growers

# What does the Washington apples case-study include?

- Identifies current available potential alternatives
- Discusses needed research

# What are other expectations of the Washington apples case-study?

- Transition evaluation through measurement of:
  - Crop protection
  - Conservation of beneficials
  - Economics
  - Progress toward harmonized export markets
  - Farm worker and grower perceptions

# What are workgroup's next steps?

- Hold another workgroup meeting to:
  - Flesh out case-studies
  - Further develop matrices
  - Work to reach consensus on components, and contents of, and plan for, transition strategies
- Present case-studies and propose advice (for USDA and EPA) to PPDC

# Questions?

Thank you