

Dicamba Over-the-top Use in Cotton and Soybeans Update
October 21-22, 2020 Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting

EPA's 2020 Dicamba Registration Decision for Uses on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton and Soybeans

- On Tuesday, October 27, EPA approved new five-year registrations for three dicamba products to be applied only on dicamba-tolerant cotton and dicamba-tolerant soybeans, including “over the top” (postemergent) uses.
- The new registrations included in the October 2020 decision are: XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology (Bayer CropScience), Engenia Herbicide (BASF). The registration extension was granted for Syngenta’s product Tavium plus VaporGrip Technology.
- OPP scientists reviewed substantial amounts of new information, conducted scientific assessments based on the best available science, and carefully considered input from stakeholder groups.
- The registrations include new mandatory control measures on the labels to ensure these products can be used effectively while protecting the environment and addressing potential concerns to sensitive crops and plants.
- Information supporting the decision can be found in the docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0492 at www.regulations.gov

2020 Label Changes for Registrations of Dicamba for Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton and Soybeans:

All three registrations include new, stringent mandatory control measures to protect the environment, including endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat.

- Requiring an approved pH-buffering agent (also called a Volatility Reduction Agent) be tank mixed with dicamba products registered for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton prior to all applications to control volatility.
- A national cut-off date prohibiting applications of dicamba on soybeans after June 30 and on cotton after July 30.
- Increasing the size of required downwind infield buffers to 240 ft. and to 310 ft in areas with listed species
- Simplifying the label and use directions so that growers can more easily determine when and how to properly apply dicamba. These registrations are only for DT cotton and soybeans.

Background:

- Dicamba is a broad-spectrum herbicide which was originally registered in the United States in 1967 and is highly effective against broadleaf weeds. Historically, it has been used for weed control prior to crop emergence. Many plant species (including 100+ crop species) can be damaged by dicamba.
- Dicamba OTT uses help growers protect dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybean crops from Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, and other weeds that can be very difficult to control.
- Since the deregulation of dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybean seed in 2016 by USDA, the states and EPA have received many incident complaints citing crop injury from the off-field movement of dicamba.

- In October 2018, EPA extended the registrations for uses of dicamba on dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans for two years.
- On June 3, 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit vacated the registrations for three dicamba products (XtendiMax With VaporGrip Technology – Bayer; Engenia Herbicide – BASF; and FeXapan Herbicide – Corteva).
- On June 8, 2020, EPA issued cancellation orders outlining limited circumstances under which existing stocks of the three affected products could be distributed and used through July 31, 2020.
- The remaining existing registration for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans (Tavium plus VaporGrip Technology, a Syngenta product), which was not subject to the court order, was set to expire on December 20, 2020.

EPA 2020 Registration Actions:

- OPP received an application from Syngenta to continue the registration for Tavium into the 2021 growing season. OPP also received applications for use only on dicamba-tolerant cotton and dicamba-tolerant soybeans from BASF and Bayer, whose products were vacated in June 2020.
- EPA considered information from pesticide manufacturers, farmers, state regulators, and other stakeholders that informed EPA’s 2020 decisions for dicamba registrations with uses on dicamba-tolerant cotton and dicamba-tolerant soybeans.
- EPA reviewed newly available data submitted by registrants as part of the 2018 terms and conditions of registration for uses on dicamba-tolerant cotton and dicamba-tolerant soybeans, including expanded monitoring and incident data as well as field volatility studies regarding dicamba’s potential for off-target movement. EPA also reviewed newly available data submitted by states as well as academic and extension services.
- As part of its decision process, EPA also evaluated the registrations for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton and dicamba-tolerant soybeans in the context of the Endangered Species Protection Act and developed location-specific requirements that dicamba users must follow on Bulletins Live! Two.