

# Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2014

## Eleventh Annual Report



*March 1, 2015*

**Table 2**

**PRIA Funded Pesticide Partnership Activities in FY 2014**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)</b></p> <p><b>Cooperative Agreement</b></p> <p><b>\$500,000</b></p> | <p>The intent of the NPIC program is to respond to inquiries regarding pesticide related issues such as pesticide product usage, pest identification, health effects, and enforcement contacts. The program provides unbiased, accurate information and response to inquiries through multiple avenues including a toll-free bi-lingual telephone information service, an extensive website, and individual outreach and training.</p> <p>General pesticide-related inquiries, including questions on the risks associated with a pesticide, usage restrictions, and local contact information for enforcement of pesticide regulations are addressed by trained experts in toxicology, environmental health and science, public health and veterinary medicine.</p> <p>Callers contacting the program regarding medical or veterinary emergencies are being provided any needed information and promptly relayed to appropriate poison control programs for emergency medical assistance. Suspected non-emergency cases of a potentially adverse effect from pesticide exposures are offered a rapid response, including risk mitigation information and enforcement contacts when appropriate.</p> <p>As a secondary activity, the program also provides a route for veterinarians, clinicians, state environmental, agricultural and public health offices, consumers, parents, researchers and members of the public to report suspected pesticide incidents to a national database. The NPIC program provides data and analysis of informational inquiries and potential incidents, for EPA and other stakeholders, supporting national pesticide surveillance efforts, enforcement priority setting and EPA risk assessment analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Inquiries:</b><br/>NPIC responded to 6,789 inquiries, including 4,972 phone calls, 1,205 voicemail messages, 601 emails, and 11 inquiries by mail/walk-in. NPIC responded to 99 inquiries in Spanish, 2 in American Sign Language, and 1 in Mandarin. Most inquiries to NPIC came from members of the general public (90%). NPIC also responded to 88 inquiries from pesticide retailer employees, 83 inquiries from medical professionals (41% veterinary), 72 inquiries from government / enforcement agencies, and five inquiries from health agencies. NPIC tracked certain elements in order to quantify risk-reduction activities. In conversation with callers, pesticide specialists discussed following the label 1,569 times, IPM concepts 402 times, environmental protection (including pollinator protection) 123 times, and ways to minimize exposure 1,584 times. Among 873 reported incidents involving humans or animals, NPIC specialists were able to capture the exposure route in 86% of cases, and symptom/scenario information in 97% of cases. NPIC specialists were able to document demographic information for 98% of human incidents, product information for 97% of reported incidents, and the location for 94% of incidents.</li></ul> <p>The NPIC website received 2,161,960 page views representing a 26% increase over the same period last year. The NPIC Spanish website received 7% of total page views. No human deaths related to pesticides were reported to NPIC. Twenty seven animal deaths were reported. Veterinary professionals submitted 21 incident reports using NPIC's Veterinary Incident Reporting Portal. Thirty incident reports were submitted using NPIC's Ecological Incident Reporting Portal.</p> |
|--|---|

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Website updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o NPIC created a new web page, “Proposed Changes to the WPS in 2014”, a translation of more technical documents that describe the opportunity for stakeholders to comment on new regulations.</li> <li>o NPIC significantly updated two web pages, including “About NPIC” and “Where to Start with Pesticide Incidents.”</li> <li>o NPIC added three new links to its website, as high-quality science and regulatory items were identified.</li> <li>o New web pages in English were titled Spinosad Plus Page, Spinosad General Fact Sheet, and the Spinosad Reference Page.</li> <li>o New web pages in Spanish were titled Hormigas (ants), Áfidos (aphids), Insectos del arce (box elders), Hormigas carpinteras (carpenter ants), and Termitas (termites).</li> <li>o Updated web pages included “Other/Inert Ingredients in Pesticides” in English and Spanish and “Registration of Pesticides.”</li> <li>o NPIC developed 5 new podcasts in Spanish</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>• <b>Deliverables</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o NPIC collects robust pesticide incident data and disseminates the information through scheduled reports and by request to U.S. EPA and partner agencies.</li> <li>o NPIC updated rigorous training programs for new pesticide specialists, emphasizing risk communication skills and the collection of essential data related to pesticide incidents.</li> <li>o NPIC used standard operating procedures and rigorous quality control to classify reported signs / symptoms in terms of severity (severity index) and in terms of their relationship to the reported exposures (certainty index).</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>• <b>Other NPIC Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o In order to provide the best referrals when appropriate, NPIC actively verifies / updates contact lists (i.e. County Extension offices, state health departments, pesticide manufacturers) on a routine basis. NPIC staff members updated over 3,000 contacts, with particular emphasis on State Lead Agency contacts in cooperation with AAPCO.</li> <li>o NPIC is an active presence on social media to promote safe use practices, integrated pest management, and pesticide label comprehension. NPIC notified over 100 organizations about the proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard using social media venues.</li> <li>o NPIC discussed potential trends and data with OPP in person and in targeted conference calls.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Total \$500,000</b> |   |