

Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2015

Twelfth Annual Report



March 1, 2016

Table 2

PRIA Funded Pesticide Partnership Activities in FY 2015

<p>National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)</p> <p>Cooperative Agreement</p> <p>\$1,000,000</p>	<p>NPIC responds 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> <p>Inquiries: NPIC responded to 11,151 inquiries, including 4,972 phone calls, 1,205 voicemail messages, 601 emails, and 11 inquiries by mail/walk-in. NPIC responded to 196 inquiries in Spanish, 3 in American Sign Language, 2 in Mandarin and 5 in French. Most inquiries to NPIC came from members of the general public (90%).</p> <p>3,070 entities were involved in incidents reported to NPIC during this period, of those, 49.6% were human, 18.5% were animals, and 30.7% were environmental non-target entities. Among reported incidents involving humans or animals, NPIC specialists were able to capture the exposure route in 87% of cases, and symptom/scenario information in 97% of cases. NPIC specialists were able to document demographic information for 99.6% of human incidents, product information for 98% of reported incidents, and symptom/scenario information in 98% of cases, and the location for 96% of incidents.</p> <p>In conversations with callers, pesticide specialists, discussed ways to minimize exposure 2,369 times, following the label 2,297 times, IPM concepts 709 times, and environmental protection 162 times.</p> <p>NPIC provided 33 special reports about incidents and inquiries upon request, including 25 reports for EPA and eight reports for state agencies. Reports were</p>
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provided within 10 business days. Quarterly reports were submitted within 30 days of each quarter's closure, accompanied by all reports received by NPIC through its veterinary and ecological reporting portals.

The NPIC website received 4,023,838 page views during this period. There were more than 2.2 million unique visitors, and 87,186 visitors viewed NPIC's website for more than 15 minutes. During this period, one human death with a known active ingredient was reported. 568 animal entities were involved in pesticide incidents. Veterinary professionals submitted

55 incident reports using NPIC's Veterinary Incident Reporting Portal. 46 incident reports were submitted using NPIC's Ecological Incident Reporting Portal.

Website updates:

- NPIC developed four new fact sheets relying on up-to-date scientific and regulatory resources. NPIC also developed a web page titled, "**Proposed Changes to the WPS in 2014.**" The page summarized regulatory language in order to encourage public participation.
- NPIC developed six new podcasts including five in Spanish.
- NPIC developed three new videos last year, including two pesticide overviews (**spinosad** and ***Bacillus thuringiensis***) and one FAQ (Would I hurt the fish by weeding & feeding the lawn?).
- NPIC created 32 new web pages this year, including nine in Spanish. See page 9.

Deliverables

- NPIC collects robust pesticide incident data and disseminates the information through scheduled reports and by request to U.S. EPA and partner agencies.
- NPIC worked with OPP to evaluate needs and procedures in preparation to conduct feedback collection activities regarding the NPIC website. Feedback will be collected in order to identify priority improvements.
- NPIC developed and delivered a webinar in collaboration with OPP entitled, "Become a PRO: NPIC's Product Research Online (NPRO)."
- NPIC updated rigorous training programs for new pesticide specialists, emphasizing risk communication skills and the collection of essential data related to pesticide incidents.
- 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).

Other NPIC Activities:

- NPIC hosted a webinar in January titled, "*Incident data from NPIC: How to request it & What can it tell us?*" It was attended by over 100 representatives of EPA headquarters, Regions, and state lead agencies. The webinar covered the types of data collected by NPIC, and the unique strengths compared to other sources of pesticide incident data. A second webinar was presented in May.
- 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 maintains current contact

lists for many organizations in order to provide the best local referrals. NPIC staff performed quality assurance to verify/update over 3,600 contacts this year. NPIC worked with AAPCO to ensure that pesticide enforcement contacts were up-to-date.

- 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. NPIC developed 157 original posts, averaging three posts per week. NPIC engaged with over 250 organizations through social media, including master gardeners, University Extension, pest management associations, and the Migrant Clinicians Network.
- NPIC discussed potential trends and data with OPP in person and in targeted conference calls.