

Section II

Bee Poisoning, Environmental Toxicology, Regulatory Issues

Life after the Food Quality Protection Act

A.S. Schreiber
Agriculture Development Group, Inc.
2621 Ringold Road, Eltopia, WA 99330
509 266 4348
aschreib@centurytel.net

The Food Quality Protection Act scheduled all food tolerances to be reviewed by August 3, 2006. For the most part, EPA met this requirement. It is interesting to note that of the thousands and thousands of tolerances that were evaluated, not a single one was considered to pose an unreasonable risk to human health. Most of the more dire predictions that were made by so called experts, most notably me, did not occur. Defense of the pesticide registrations under FQPA cost registrants hundreds of millions of dollars. Many uses were canceled due to the lack of financial incentives to maintain registrations. IR-4 and commodity groups spent large sums of money to defend products and develop new registrations for replacements for the expected losses of organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. In the end, FQPA canceled very few products due to food safety concerns. However, EPA is forcing significant regulatory changes based on human health and environmental concerns, issues that were not included in the original food safety intent of FQPA.

Of particular note is EPA has or is attempting to force major cancellations for Guthion (azinphos-methyl), Mocap (ethoprop), Temik (aldicarb) and Furadan (carbofuran). Cancellations for Guthion have been promulgated. Cancellations for Mocap, Temik and Furadan have been proposed but are being opposed by the registrants and the regulatory community.

Human health issues, particularly farmworker and applicator safety, will increasingly be the major driver on EPA actions against pesticide. Environmental issues will be more of a driver than it has in the past. Furadan may become the first major active ingredient that is canceled primarily due to an environmental risk issue (e.g. avian risk). Food safety issues associated with pesticide residues (e.g. tolerances) will not be an issue of concern in the near future.