Agricultural Issues & Challenges from a Regulatory and Industry Perspective

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I. Introduction

II. Issues

III. Challenges

IV. Recommendations & Response
Introduction

- Background
- History with APMA
Issues

• GSA Top 10

• CAC Pesticide Issues
GSA Top 10 List

1. Farm Labor Availability

2. Water Quality

3. Food Safety

4. Crop Protection
   a. Pest Management Strategies
   b. Plant Pathogens
   c. Retention of essential crop protection materials, etc.

5. Compliance with Labor and Employment Laws
   a. Wage and Hour
   b. EEO
   c. Child Labor
6. New ALRB Regulations and Union Organizing Activity

7. Health Care Reform/Mandate

8. Worker Safety
   a. Worker’s Compensation
   b. OSHA
   c. Pesticide Postings
   d. Exposure

9. Air Quality

10. Land Use
CAC Pesticide Issues

- Drift (and perception of drift…)
- Complex cropping systems/business relationships & communication
- Pesticide Posting Warning Signs
- Grower disconnect with pesticide applications (use of PCO’s, FLC’s and Harvesting companies)
- CRLA – linking pesticide issue with wage and hour/other issues
CAC Pesticide Issues (cont.)

• Strict Liability (injury or harm regardless of intent)

• Emergency Medical Care

• Fumigants (Methyl Iodide, Chloropicrin Issues, phase-out of Methyl Bromide)

• Examples of big pesticide issues
  • Exposures cases
  • Fumigant release into neighborhood
  • Oasis Charter School & communication
Challenges

- Social/Environmental Justice
- Legislation
- Social Media
- Public Agency Influences
Social/Environmental Justice

1. Immigration
2. Union Organizing
3. Worker Safety
4. Compliance with Labor and Employment Laws
5. Sexual Harassment
6. Heat illness
7. Pesticides
8. Wage and Hour
9. ADA
Legislative

- Heat Illness
- Ag Overtime
- Minimum wage
- ARLB (SB 25, etc.)
- Pesticides
Social Media

- Notwithstanding traditional media (e.g. Food Movement Marion Nestle/Food Politics, Michael Dimmock/Ro**ots of Change**, Michael Pollan /**In Defense of Food**, Eric Schlosser/Fast Food Nation

- Blogs, Twitter, Facebook

- Online Networking examples:
  - Food Safety: Bill Marler
  - Pesticide advocacy groups
  - Connections, alliances, coalitions
    - Methyl iodide registration (Coast Keepers, UFW, LandWatch, Planned Parenthood, Pesticide Watch)
    - Methyl Bromide & LBAM Aerial Applied Pheromone
Public Agency Influences

• OEHHA – EnviroScan
• Cal-EPA – Environmental Justice
• CDPH – Health Tracking / Schools
• CHAMACOS
Pollution Burden: Exposure and Environmental Effect Indicators & Scores

- Air Quality
- Pesticide Use
- Toxic Releases from Facilities
- Traffic Density
- Cleanup Sites
- Water – Groundwater/Impaired Water Bodies Threats
- Solid Waste Sites, Hazardous Waste Facilities

Population Characteristics (Sensitive Populations/Socioeconomic Indicators)

- Age: Children and Elderly
- Educational Attainment
- Linguistic Isolation
- Poverty
- Race/Ethnicity
California EPA Environmental Justice Compliance & Enforcement

• Establish guidelines and framework to advance goals set forth in Cal-EPA’s Environmental Justice and Enforcement Policy

• Identify areas disproportionately impacted by pollution

• Develop a compliance and enforcement plan
Concern about exposures from pesticides to schoolchildren due to drift

Describes the pattern of agricultural pesticides of public health concern near schools in the top 15 counties ranked by agricultural pesticide use in 2010

Partners: Californians for Pesticide Reform, Pesticide Action Network, Center for Environmental Health
# Pesticide Use (in lbs.) Top 15 Counties in CA in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Chemical Applied (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>30,283,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kern</td>
<td>25,782,086</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tulare</td>
<td>13,148,843</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>San Joaquin</td>
<td>9,421,118</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Madera</td>
<td>9,129,884</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Monterey</td>
<td>8,727,282</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>7,736,269</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Ventura</td>
<td>6,991,486</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Kings</td>
<td>6,743,291</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Stanislaus</td>
<td>5,961,801</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Imperial</td>
<td>4,901,524</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>4,378,453</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>3,622,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>3,033,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yolo</td>
<td>2,830,795</td>
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The CHAMACOS Study is a longitudinal birth cohort study examining chemicals and other factors in the environment and children’s health.

In 1999-2000, enrolled 601 pregnant women living in the agricultural Salinas Valley.

Following their children through age 12 to measure their exposures to pesticides and other chemicals and to determine if this exposure impacts their growth, health, and development.

In 2010-2011 they enrolled 300 additional 9-year-old children into the cohort and will be following them also until age 12.
Recommendations & Response

• Continued dialogue, education (AgKnowledge)
• Communication with neighbors/workers, PCAs, schools
• Ensure compliance
• Know your regulatory officials
• Join industry associations
• Media response? How do we inform, enlighten public opinion?
• Legislative tours, regulatory agency
• Continued risk management efforts
• Be aware of and respond to employees’ concerns
Recommendations & Response: (cont.)

• **Examples:**

  • Ag Leadership/education (DC Exchange federal employee tours)

  • Education of policy makers/government officials (e.g. Cal-OSHA Director, Congressional leaders, US/CA Ag Secretaries)

  • AgKnowledge

  • Air Monitoring network (lbs. of pesticides used vs. air monitoring data)
Questions?
The End

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