FAR WEST AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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January 23, 2020

Rose Kachadoorian
Pesticides Program Manager,
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Oregon Chlorpyrifos Work Group Public Comment

Dear Ms. Kachadoorian:

Far West Agribusiness Association is a 503 (c)(6) five-state regional trade association currently in its 61st year. Our members are primarily agricultural retailers who sell crop inputs and crop protection products to farmers, provide agronomic services and custom commercial applications. We also have members who are wholesalers and manufacturers.

We are very interested in the proceedings of this work group and have been monitoring the group through our local counsel and reading and utilizing the information and resources provided on the ODA website.

Based on "homework" assigned at the last workgroup, we offer the following comments for today's discussion:

1. Review of a draft list of critical needs for chlorpyrifos
2. A discussion of risk mitigation tools that have been used in Oregon & other jurisdictions
3. Identification of additional potential risk mitigation strategies

1. **Critical Needs:**
    a. Chlorpyrifos products are the most effective chemistry available against cutworm, armyworms, wireworms, round worms and some aphids.
        i. Lorsban is the most commonly used product that contains the active ingredient Chlorpyrifos.
        ii. Lorsban is applied to almost every crop in the Willamette Valley.
        iii. It is critical to apply Lorsban on onions and corn for maggot control
        iv. Lorsban is ground applied for onions, so any potential limitations/restrictions on aerial spraying methods are less of a concern.
        v. Lorsban is the only effective control for Douglas Fir needle midge which in at least Mexico, is a quarantine pest so a ban in Oregon would destroy that export market.

vi. Other crops in Oregon that normally use Lorsban are grass seed, mint, peas, hazelnuts, and Christmas trees.

b. When chemistries of lesser effectiveness are used and a percentage of pests survive, repopulation occurs quicker and requires a more frequent application of the product used. In addition, the less effective chemistry creates an environment in which an insect may adapt and develop resistance making the lessor chemistry no longer effective.

c. Insects typically controlled by Chlorpyrifos are unable to vector diseases in crops such as cherry trees which could potentially eliminate hundreds if not thousands of acres of production.

d. Chlorpyrifos is an extremely effective control of mosquitos known to carry Malaria, West Nile and other preventable diseases.

e. Chlorpyrifos is an extremely effective control of termites which destroy structures responsible for 1-2 billion in US property damage per year.

f. As provided in previous ODA slides, Chlorpyrifos is used in over 50 crops including Oregon's grass crop, the largest commodity in the Willamette Valley.

2. Risk Mitigation Tools

a. New Technology

i. The continuing development of new surfactants/ evaporation inhibitors/drift management additives add a number of new alternatives to reduce off target movement.

ii. A number of new web-based applications now exist that provide weather and temperature conditions along with GPS coordinates which pin point location and record conditions at and during applications.

iii. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAAV) or Drones can systematically monitor air blast prayers from above near critical or more populated areas.

iv. Although still new to the market and not yet cost effective, advanced air blast spray applicators can deliver charged droplets that are attracted to negatively charged ground plant surfaces. This technology proposes is to apply a more even coating on the tops and undersides of plant materials with crop protection products and is sometimes referred to as "wrap around technology". This technology holds the promise of minimizing the chance of runoff.

b. Handling

i. Chlorpyrifos could be required to use a "closed system" for the transfer of concentrated liquids. A threaded connection to a water supply line would satisfy rinsing requirements after use and the label provides approved disposal options. A proposed requirement would be consistent with the requirements under the existing Workers Protection Standard.

c. Environmental

i. Lowering the maximum allowable wind speed for the application of Chlorpyrifos products (Lorsban) from 10 mph to 5 mph would not be a concern in the

Willamette Valley, but a concern in the very windy Columbia Valley. Note: Wind speed restrictions may result in the application of Chlorpyrifos products on days when weather inversions may occur.

3. **Potential Risk Mitigation Strategies**
    a. **Education**
        i. Linking education at each step from the supplier to the applicator. Web based modules addressing the proper reading of a label, understanding it's content, the proper precautions in handling and physical application of the product, the proper personal protective equipment, the logistical handling, the environmental conditions and the application methods used consistent with the label.
        ii. Continuing education certifications could be individually completed in advance then each of those within the chain of responsibility are linked to every application.
        iii. Example of web based training: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators#q1
        iv. Public Service Announcements (PSA's) are a message in the public's interest to disseminate information, without charge to raise the awareness, attitude and behavior of a pesticide application that is in or about to be in progress. A combination of social media, flyers, Op-ed's and bill board signage may better educate the public as to the crop input steps required for an abundant, affordable and sustainable food supply.

FWAA supports the mission of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture to:

1. Support Integrated Pest Management system for the State (IPM)
2. Reduce Risks to People and the Environment

FWAA supports the position that it is the responsibility of the applicator to ensure the correct and proper application of any product, at any particular time and under any particular condition. That the label is the law and that each chemistry shall be registered in the state it is used, for the purposed and rate stated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Jim Fitzgerald

cc: Amanda Dalton, Dalton Advocacy Inc.
Nicole Crane, Dalton Advocacy Inc.