

November 30, 2018

## DICAMBA – BEYOND THE LABEL

This fall the EPA announced their decision on dicamba registration for use on dicamba tolerant crops for 2019-2020. There are new requirements including the prohibition of over the top application of dicamba on soybeans to 45 days after planting. Additional certification programs will be required provided by industry and/or Nebraska Extension. I will publicize those Extension meeting times soon.

Recently four University Weed Specialists agreed that in addition to the eight new label restrictions the EPA detailed in its updated label for dicamba use, there are five additional recommendations to lower off site movement citing that “one can do everything per the label” but still have offsite movement to contend with. For the entire article go to: <https://goo.gl/S4ksQB>

1. **Wind Speed:** The label allows applications when wind speed is between 3 and 10 mph. A key aspect that applicators may overlook and need to focus in on is wind gusts. Do not spray when the forecast indicates wind gusts will exceed 10 mile per hour. It is impossible to predict when a gust of this magnitude will happen nor how long it will last. Gusts that reach 30 mph can move spray particles and vapor for great distances.
2. **Boom Height:** The label reduces boom heights to the 24-inches above the target height limit specified on the label. Researchers know by reducing the boom height from 48 to 24 inches you can reduce spray particle drift by 50%. The key is in certain fields this requires the applicator to slow down to prevent running the boom into the ground. Remember, any travel speed over 15 mph is off-label. The labels also now recommends that travel speeds be reduced to 5 mph when making applications on the field edges.
3. **Temperature:** With dicamba products reducing fine particles is the biggest key, but also have an awareness of volatility with hot temperatures. It’s a best management practice to avoid application when temperature exceeds 80 degrees. Assuming that these dicamba products have some potential for volatility, the risk of this occurring increases with temperature.
4. **Early is Better:** The weed specialists indicated that applying dicamba at pre-plant, pre-emergence, or very early post-emergence, is the best way to avoid off-target situations. Over 90% of the offsite movement complaints resulted from post-emergence applications. Their assumption is that applications earlier in spring will have less likelihood to cause problems even where dicamba moves, due to the absence in many cases of any developed vegetation to injure. The added factor during these times is that temperatures are likely to be lower too.
5. **Communication:** Applicators need to have a better awareness and have better conversations with neighbors to know what crops and technologies are being planted around Xtend soybean fields. Many offsite movement cases in 2018 occurred where neighbors planted Xtend and non-Xtend soybean adjacent to each other. Knowing what sensitive crops are near your Xtend fields will enable better decisions about use of dicamba in a given field.



I need to give credit to Margy Eckelkamp with AgPro for the summary of this University weed science information. Finally, I have observed with corn post-applications, with the products that have dicamba, that AMS makes dicamba products more highly volatile. Even though it is on label or legal to use AMS and glyphosate in combination with dicamba products (i.e. Status or Diflex Duo herbicides), I highly recommend an AMS replacement. Do not use AMS with any dicamba product.

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