

December 15, 2017

DICAMBA UPDATE

Dicamba (Banvel) is a herbicide that kills many broadleaf weeds and certain tree species. Did you know the trait used to develop dicamba-resistant soybean was discovered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln by a team of researchers led by Dr. Donald Weeks and was licensed to Monsanto? The trait came from nature and allows a broadleaf soybean plant to rapidly metabolize dicamba. The idea came from researching a soil bacterium *Pseudomonas maltophilia*. Then through the process of genetic engineering, the trait was inserted into soybeans and licensed by Monsanto as Extend soybeans. It is amazing to me how resistant the soybeans are to Dicamba.

This year was our first big experience in Nebraska with the three new products labeled for use on Extend soybeans. They are Xtendimax, Fexapan and Engenia. Xtendimax and Fexapan are the exact same active ingredient with vapor grip technology whereas Engenia is a different dicamba salt called BAMP. It is strictly prohibited and violation of federal label laws to spray soybeans with different dicamba products than these three.

At a pesticide training update in Kearney last week, I learned that Arkansas exceeded 1,300 complaints about dicamba. Their Department of Agriculture has 40 inspectors investigating each and every one. In Nebraska we have four inspectors and we fared much better as there were 94 formal complaints, 23 fully investigated as claims with 20 still open investigations. Once cases are closed they are public record.

On October 17, 2017 there was a complete paradigm shift for new herbicide labeling. Xtendimax, Fexapan and Engenia became Restricted Use Only compounds and had wide sweeping labeling changes in a short period of time. Anyone applying these products in 2018 have an additional certification step or must attend a dicamba/auxin training. BASF and Monsanto in essence are already approved and with their trainings in Nebraska will show an additional short module with specific information required for Nebraska applicators. Also, UNL Extension is finishing up a free online course which should be ready to go by mid-January as another alternative to get certified if you plan to spray these products in 2018.

The Nebraska Department of Ag, by the end of this month, at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/> will post a dicamba training link with all the important information applicators need to know including a suggested new record keeping sheet and a new listing of trained applicators. Instead of keeping nine items on record for three years there will be 20 items required. Dealers will be instructed to go to this website to view licensed applicators in order to legally sell these three products.

Probably the most talked about will be the daily sprayer cleanout required by the label even if it is a dedicated sprayer. Cleanout procedures, according to label, are required before the start of application and at the end of spray application daily. Weather information at the boom height was always suggested in the past but is now mandatory with these three products.



Will these new regulations reduce dicamba drift complaints in Nebraska? It's interesting that dicamba use on corn was not effected by any of the above mentioned label changes. Enhanced stewardship with these products are equally important to advance our agricultural industry and keeping tools to combat Roundup resistant weeds.

Randy Pryor, Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County • 306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, NE
68465
Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: randy.pryor@unl.edu