Best Practices for Pesticide Applications

Ag/Cannabis Stakeholder Working Group

Disclaimer: The information contained in this presentation is for discussion purposes only and does not reflect the opinions of staff, the Ag Commissioner, the Board of Supervisors or the County and are not the County's current regulatory requirements. The County's cannabis regulations are contained in the County Code and are post on the County's cannabis website at http://cannabis.countyofsb.org/.

Applicators-What You Need to Know.

- Commercial
 - Are there adjacent sensitive sites?
 - Schools, organic, cannabis?
 - Resources:
 - Ag Department Website for map
 - County of Santa Barbara P&D
 - CalCannabis
 - Bureau of Cannabis Control
 - Best Practices documents
 - If Yes:
 - Get contact information for sensitive site
 - Resources:
 - Contact neighbor prior to application.

- Private
 - Are there adjacent sensitive sites?
 - Schools, organic cannabis
 - Resources:
 - Ag Department website
 - County of Santa Barbara P&D
 - CalCannabis
 - Bureau of Cannabis Control
 - Best Practices documents
 - If Yes:
 - Get contact information for sensitive site
 - Resources:
 - Contact neighbor prior to application.

What to Do When Cannabis is Next Door.

- Conventional Ag Property Operator:
 - Provide information to applicator and PCA.
 - Aerial photos, maps.
 - Contact information of cannabis neighbor.
 - Notify your cannabis neighbor about application.
 - Install vegetative screening, fencing, wind breaks
- Pest Control Advisor:
 - Consider recommending an alternative pesticide that is not one of the 66 active ingredients
 - Consult DPR website
 - Consider anti-drift additives.
 - Air versus ground method.
 - Monitor application.

Applicator Responsibilities

- Commercial applicators:
- Training for sensitive sites (schools, organic, cannabis).
- Create checklist:
 - Equipment to monitor weather conditions on site.
 - Application in good condition (calibrated).
 - Use the right nozzle.
- Choose the appropriate application method
- Choose the right time of day.
- Supervisor on site during application.
- Coordinate with cannabis neighbor prior to application.
- Decide on best application practices:
 - Buffers
 - Equipment nozzle shields
 - Anti-drift additives or surfactants

- Private applicators:
- Training for sensitive sites (schools, organic, cannabis).
- Create a checklist:
 - Equipment to monitor weather conditions on site.
 - Application equipment in good condition (calibrated).
 - Use the right nozzle.
- Supervisor on site during application.
- Coordinate with cannabis neighbor prior to application.
- Decide on best application practices :
 - Buffers
 - Equipment nozzle shields
 - Anti-drift additives or surfactants.

Cannabis Cultivator Considerations

- Potential Protection Measures to Consider
 - Hoop structures,
 - Crop blankets,
 - Vegetative screenings, or wind breaks
 - Create setbacks,
 - Move plants away from adjacent application site,
 - Perimeter of screens on prevailing wind side,
 - Close vents of greenhouses during application.
- Provide up to date contact information for your neighbors.
- Post pesticide application R&D cannabis testing.
- Decide on remediation if necessary
- Consider coordinating application timing with pesticide applicator

Additional Considerations

- Understanding cannabis and conventional cropping (harvest) intervals.
- Understand the biology of pest
- Pesticide applicator focused training-employees,
- Include Spray Safe agenda item for sensitive sites (including cannabis)
- Cost share between cannabis and conventional neighbors to offset cost of best application practices.
- Request Section 18/Special Local Need for use exception on crops.
- Research a list of pesticides that work for both cannabis and adjacent conventional crops.
- Handout outreach material every year.

Understanding Liability

- Consider drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to memorialize discussions between neighbors.
- Ensure you are covered for loss due to drift.
- Develop a document to certify weather conditions at time of spraying.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this presentation is for discussion purposes only and does not reflect the opinions of staff, the Ag Commissioner, the Board of Supervisors or the County and are not the County's current regulatory requirements. The County's cannabis regulations are contained in the County Code and are post on the County's cannabis website at http://cannabis.countyofsb.org/.