The Genie’s out of the bottle...
Now what?
The Auxin Genie

• Dow Enlist program
  – New formulation of 2,4 D
    • Low to no volatility
    • Direct drift is the sole concern
  – Agreed to extensive concessions after cooperative discussions
  – If label is followed, off-target problems should not occur
The Dicamba Genie

• Dicamba tolerance-Historically known to be a very volatile compound
  – Utilizes one new formulation-BASF Engenia
    • Reduced volatility
  – Reformulated version of Clarity-Vapor Grip
    • Change of pH alters volatility spectrum
    • Very restrictive on what can be tank mixed because of volatility changes
  – Can spray “on label” and still move off-target
This threat did not sneak up on us
Three quotes from 2010 Congressional Testimony

1. “The widespread use of dicamba herbicide possesses the single most serious threat to the future of specialty crops in the Midwest.”
2. “The widespread use of dicamba is incompatible with Midwestern agriculture”
3. “Increased dicamba usage...is poor public policy and should not be allowed.”
Yet 2016 seemed like such a surprise

Missouri’s Largest Peach Farmer Sues Monsanto for Losses From Illegal Herbicide Use

Tensions rise in Bootheel as suspected herbicide drift strains finances, relationships

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch  Oct 15, 2016  (5)

Monsanto Sold Soybean Farmers A Weed-Beating Tool They Couldn’t Legally Use

Lawsuit Targets Dicamba

Court Asked to Force Agency Review of Dicamba’s Conditional Permit

Todd Neeley, DTN Staff Reporter
1/23/2017 | 4:31 PM CST

Dicamba Details

Why Dicamba Drifted Last Year

Pam Smith, Crops Technology Editor
1/17/2017 | 10:33 AM CST

DICAMBA INJURY COMPLAINTS ORIGINATING FAR FROM MISSOURI BOOTOHEEL

August 25, 2016  By Tom Steever

Filed Under: Crops, Missouri, News
3. Modeling of Off-Target Movement Due to Volatility Demonstrates That a Buffer Is Not Necessary to Protect Against Volatilization of the Monsanto Dicamba Products

Flux values calculated from the field volatility studies were used along with a range of weather data to predict off-target movement via volatility. The selected weather conditions used in this assessment represent widely varied weather conditions, covering a broad geographical range representative of soy and cotton-growing regions that represents conservative worst case conditions. The predicted air concentrations and deposition values were then compared to no-effect concentrations/rates to assess distances from the application area that would result in no effects to listed non-target plant species. These analyses are described further below, and demonstrate that no effects of dicamba will occur outside the boundaries of the field.

Farmer Allegedly Killed Over Dicamba
Confrontation Over Herbicide Drift Leads to Arkansas Shooting Death

Chris Clayton, DTN Ag Policy Editor
10/28/2016 | 5:09 PM CDT
2016 Experiences

• Estimates of up to 400,000 acres of soybeans damaged in Midsouth
• Millions of dollars of crop loss
• Specialty crops took a big hit - 30,000 peach trees in one farm
• Two shooting events, one fatal
• In Missouri, 60% of cases involved inversions or volatility, both not controlled by label restrictions
• In Peoria, IL, it was estimated that between May 1 and June 15\textsuperscript{th}, only two days were “on label” for application.
The Genie is not going back in the bottle, So where do we go from here?

• Ensure proper formulations are used
  – Generic sales are increasing
• Follow label rules on buffers...although
  – Very inadequate-110’ is nothing
  – Impractical for applicators to follow
    • Wind direction restrictions
    • Wind speed restrictions
    • Weed height restrictions
    • Boom height restrictions
    • Tank Mix restrictions
Further concerns

• “Black Eye of Agriculture”
  – Homeowner injury will bring about unwanted scrutiny

• No residue allowance-loss of field, not just loss of yield

• Inadequate or no insurance coverage

• Rural acrimony will follow

• Additional resistant weeds on the horizon
2017 and Beyond

- Registration only for two years
  - Can be pulled sooner or not renewed
- Use of dicamba in corn production will rise making the exposure even greater
  - Older generic formulations are legal in corn (Except Arkansas)
- Estimates in excess of 30 million acres will be treated in 2017, will ultimately be 150 million or more with soybeans, cotton & corn
- Civil fines are being raised up to $25,000 in Arkansas, $10,000 in Missouri
- New weed resistance likely
What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object?

Questions?

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