

## **The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance**

### **Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program End-of-Year Report 2008**

The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) is comprised of a diverse membership with professionals from academia, governmental agencies, and private industry. TPSA's mission to improve pesticide stewardship efforts by increasing effectiveness and efficiency through proper labeling, judicious application, proper handling of containers and waste minimization is reflected in its Strategic Plan and its accomplishments during 2008.

#### **Goal 1 - Information Exchange**

**Goal 1:** *Provide a forum for diverse groups of pesticide stewardship professionals to interact and communicate to improve pesticide stewardship and reduce risks from pesticides.*

The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA), held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference in Albuquerque NM February 22-24, 2009. The theme of the conference was “*Stewardship Strategies and Tools.*” Planning for the conference was a major focus during 2008. Agenda topics addressed pesticide use reduction, web-based pesticide labeling, container/containment regulations, fumigant management, and domestic and international stewardship outreach. The conference included invited and submitted presentations, moderated panels, work sessions and roundtable discussions on a wide range of pesticide stewardship topics. The full agenda, photos, as well as copies of presentations from more than 40 speakers at the annual meeting are available at <http://tpsalliance.org>.

#### **Goal 2 - International Pesticide Stewardship**

**Goal 2:** *Broaden the reach of stewardship activities and interactions thereby benefiting all by the sharing of experience and expertise*

The 9th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference included attendees from 28 states and 5 countries including Belgium, Nicaragua, Canada, and Lithuania. International attendees were an integral part of the Conference presenting across topics including the plenary session “*Why Pesticide Stewardship Includes Pesticide Use Reduction – A European View*”. A special Invited International Address provided a detailed look at the new FAO-WHO Guidelines on Management Options for Empty Pesticide Containers.

In addition to recruiting international experts for the annual conference, efforts in promoting international pesticide stewardship are reflected in TPSA's International Stewardship Committee. Activities during 2008 include collaboration with pesticide stewardship professionals worldwide to identify common areas of interest and the subsequent development of "white paper" - general protocol for triple rinsing procedure. The latter has come to fruition with the implementation of activities with international collaborators to develop an international stewardship standard for triple rinsing empty containers.

### **Goal 3 – End of Life Cycle Issues**

**Goal 3:** *Promote awareness and provide information regarding pesticide end of life cycle issues, such as pesticide disposal and plastic pesticide container recycling, and the related topic of agricultural plastic recycling.*

#### **Pesticide Disposal:**

Efforts to promote awareness and provide information related to pesticide disposal include the presentation of three (3) sessions at the 9th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference related to pesticide disposal including *Collecting Pesticides in the Southwest: What's Happening and What's Coming?*; *Mexico-US Border Pesticide Disposal Update*; and *Developing and Implementing a National Pesticide Disposal Database*. The latter effort was initiated in 2008 with the formation of TPSA's Hazardous Waste Disposal Work Group. Information collected will be used in the establishment of a network of disposal program coordinators. Requested information includes contact information for state program coordinators; quantity of pesticides collected from 2003 through 2008; number of participants served and funding source. Once the initial information is collected, it will be posted on our website and serve as a resource for individuals or organization implementing a pesticide disposal program. Program information will be updated annually. The national pesticide disposal database will serve as a model for the development of a national pesticide container recycling database.

#### **Container Recycling:**

Efforts to facilitate the recycling of pesticide containers included the formation of TPSA's Handling Empty Containers Work Group. Additional efforts included the inclusion of two sessions at the 9th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference which were designed to identify and analyze container recycling related issues. Sessions included: *Stewardship of Container Collections*; and *Current Issues with Pesticide Container Recycling*. These sessions will serve as the starting point for future activities of the work group in this area including the development of a national database.

#### **Agricultural Plastic Recycling:**

Efforts to facilitate the recycling of agricultural plastics other than pesticide containers include to formation of TPSA's Ag Plastics Work Group in February 2008. In addition, five (5) sessions dedicated to Ag Film Product Stewardship were held at the 9th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference: *Learning from Other Industries; Manufacturer's Perspectives; Role of Standards in Facilitating Stewardship; Emerging Markets for Used Ag Plastics; and Moving Ag Film Stewardship to the Next Level.*

#### **Goal 4 – Labeling as a Means of Pesticide Risk Reduction**

**Goal 4:** *Discuss and explore the issues surrounding the revision of pesticide label language to include improved stewardship information for all pesticide users.*

Following the premise that the “label is the law”, TPSA recognizes the importance of directing the label language towards the intended risk reduction goals and not create unintended consequences which can divert the resources of pesticide manufacturers, distributors, and end users. To this end, TPSA and its membership have focused efforts aimed at improved stewardship information on pesticide labels. This has been accomplished in part by three (3) sessions at the 9th Annual Pesticide Stewardship Conference which allowed open communication between all stakeholders in two major areas: *Web-Distributed Labeling: Database Characteristics and Delivery and Quality Assurance and Enforcement Issues;* and *Label Compliance and Stewardship Issues.* The stewardship goal of web-distributed labeling are two-fold: more streamlined, easy to comprehend use directions/precautions that are crop/site specific, and facilitation of updating use directions with mitigation measures and use instructions.

#### **Goal 5 – Pesticide Distribution Risk Reduction**

**Goal 5:** *Create an effective pesticide distribution system that minimizes improperly certified or incompetent applicators using pesticides.*

No activities during 2008.

In summary, TPSA is progressing towards achieving its goals as outlined in its Strategic Plan (2008-2012). Work was initiated in 2008 for Goals 1 – 4. It is anticipated that Goal 5 will be reviewed and development of activities aimed at achieving that goal will begin in 2009.