

Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2016

Thirteenth Annual Report



March 1, 2017

Table 2
PRIA Funded Pesticide Partnership Activities in FY 2016

<p>National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)</p> <p>Cooperative Agreement (X8-83560101)</p> <p>\$500,000</p>	<p>The intent of the NPIC program is to respond to inquiries regarding pesticide related issues such as pesticide product usage, pest identification, health effects, and enforcement contacts. The program provides unbiased, accurate information and response to inquiries through multiple avenues including a toll-free bi-lingual telephone information service, an extensive website, and individual outreach and training.</p> <p>General pesticide-related inquiries, including questions on the risks associated with a pesticide, usage restrictions, and local contact information for enforcement of pesticide regulations are addressed by trained experts in toxicology, environmental health and science, public health and veterinary medicine.</p> <p>Callers contacting the program regarding medical or veterinary emergencies are being provided any needed information and promptly relayed to appropriate poison control programs for emergency medical assistance. Suspected non-emergency cases of a potentially adverse effect from pesticide exposures are offered a rapid response, including risk mitigation information and enforcement contacts when appropriate.</p> <p>As a secondary activity, the program also provides a route for veterinarians, clinicians, state environmental, agricultural and public health offices, consumers, parents, researchers and members of the public to report suspected pesticide incidents to a national database. The NPIC program provides data and analysis of informational inquiries and potential incidents, for EPA and other stakeholders, supporting national pesticide surveillance efforts, enforcement priority setting and EPA risk assessment analysis.</p> <p>Inquiries: Last year NPIC received 11,362 inquiries. Most inquiries to NPIC came from members of the general public (85%). Most of the inquiries were informational inquiries about pesticides or related issues. About 16% of NPIC inquiries were incidents. NPIC staff documented and reviewed 1,809 pesticide-related incidents. In these cases, NPIC provided appropriate local referrals for enforcement, as needed.</p> <p>NPIC discussed ways to minimize exposure 2,431 times, following the label 2,158 times, IPM concepts 801 times, and environmental protection 195 times.</p> <p>Website updates: NPIC posted new items in social media venues promoting safe use practices, IPM, and pesticide label comprehension. The NPIC website received 4,541,036 page views during this period. There were more than 2.8 million unique visitors, and 94,836 visitors stayed for more than 15 minutes.</p> <p>NPIC engaged with over 200 organizations through social media, including extension, health departments, master gardeners, bee advocates, and professional associations like NPMA and the Entomological Society of America.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed 253 original posts, averaging five posts per week. • Created 68 new web pages this year, including 16 in Spanish.
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- Developed 12 new videos this year, including nine frequently asked questions, three webinars, and a video for parents about how to prevent pesticide poisonings.
- Developed four new fact sheets, including one that explains the “half-life” concept
- Developed four new Pestibyte podcasts and two new FAQ comics this year
- NPIC maintains current contact lists for many organizations in order to provide the best local referrals. Last year, in preparation for questions about the revised Worker Protection Standard (WPS), NPIC called every state and territory to identify the best contact for WPS questions.

Deliverables:

NPIC collects robust pesticide incident data and disseminates the information through scheduled reports and by request to U.S. EPA and partner agencies. NPIC maintains frequent communication with OPP about proposed projects and priorities for publication development. NPIC discusses inquiry trends and data with OPP at least quarterly.

- NPIC provided 35 special reports about incidents and inquiries upon request, including 22 reports for EPA and 11 reports for state agencies and/or universities.
- NPIC in collaboration with EPA developed an incident remediation fact sheet to inform the public about mitigation measures for “Cleaning up After Indoor Pesticide Misuse”.
- NPIC partnered with CDPR to highlight disinfectants in schools on social media, which included development of a new infographic in English and Spanish.
- NPIC used standard operating procedures and rigorous quality control to classify reported signs / symptoms in terms of severity (severity index) and in terms of their relationship to the reported exposures (certainty index).

Other NPIC Activities:

- NPIC/OPP coordinated outreach efforts related to paraquat poisonings and the Zika virus.
- NPIC developed two new videos titled, “Herbicide Properties Tool (HPT) (web app preview)” and “Reducing Disinfectant Exposures in the Workplace.”
- NPIC continued to monitor and improve its working relationship(s) with AAPCC and OHSU and recently developed an infographic on “How to Read Pesticide Labels.”
- NPIC continues to enhance its pesticide -product research tool NPRO (NPIC’s Product Research Online).