

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Pesticide Services**

Dicamba Update for 2019-2020 Growing Season

On October 31, 2018, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is extending the registration of dicamba for two years for “over-the-top” use (application to growing plants), to control weeds in fields for cotton and soybean plants genetically engineered to resist dicamba. This action was informed by input from and extensive collaboration between EPA, state regulators, farmers, academic researchers, pesticide manufacturers, and other stakeholders.

For the 2019-2020 growing season and beyond, the labels of the following restricted use (RUP) Dicamba formulations used to control weeds in cotton and soybeans have been amended and contain new use requirements:

- XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology (Monsanto)
- DuPont® FeXapan® herbicide Plus VaporGrip® Technology
- Engenia® Herbicide (BASF)

New Dicamba Requirements

The following label changes were made as part of the Dicamba registration decisions for the 2019-2020 growing season to ensure that these products can continue to be used effectively while addressing potential concerns to surrounding crops and plants:

1. Two-year federal registration (until December 20, 2020);
2. **Only** certified applicators may apply dicamba over the top (those working under the supervision of a certified applicator may **no** longer make applications);
3. Prohibit over-the-top application of dicamba on soybeans 45 days after planting and cotton 60 days after planting;
4. For cotton, limit the number of over-the-top applications from 4 to 2 (soybeans remain at 2 over-the-top applications);
5. Applications will be allowed only from 1 hour after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset;
6. In counties where endangered species may exist, the downwind buffer will remain at 110 feet and there will be a new 57-foot buffer around the other sides of the field (the 110-foot downwind buffer applies to all applications, not just in counties where endangered species may exist);

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7. Clarify training period for 2019 and beyond, ensuring consistency across all three products;
8. Enhanced tank clean out instructions for the entire system;
9. Enhanced label to improve applicator awareness on the impact of low pH's on the potential volatility of dicamba; and
10. Label clean up and consistency to improve compliance and enforceability

The federal registration for all dicamba products will automatically expire on December 20, 2020, unless EPA further extends it. State registration for all pesticides remains an annual registration (expires December 31 each year.)

Applicator Certification

Dicamba is classified as a “restricted use” pesticide. For the 2019-2020 growing season, the label now states “***Only certified applicators may apply dicamba over the top (those working under the supervision of a certified applicator may no longer make applications)***”. Therefore, **only certified Commercial Applicators and certified Private Applicators may apply Dicamba.** Virginia’s Certified Registered Technicians do **not** meet the federal definition of a certified applicator thus are prohibited from making applications of these products (40 CFR Part 171). In addition, while the Worker Protection Standard allows handlers to apply pesticides under the supervision of a certified private applicator, given the changes to the Dicamba labels, handlers are **not** permitted to make applications of these products.

Information regarding pesticide applicator certification is available at <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.shtml>.

Training

In Virginia, the registrants (manufacturers) will continue to provide the Dicamba specific training required prior to the use of the above listed products. Both in person and online training is acceptable. Pesticide applicators may take any of the three registrant provided trainings to meet the training requirement (pesticide applicators do not have to take the training from the registrant of the Dicamba product they intend to use).

In Virginia, pesticide applicator training completed in another state including registrant training, state mandated training and state approved training will be accepted with appropriate documentation. Please note that while we will accept training conducted in another state that does not mean that other states will accept the registrant training taken by a pesticide applicator

in Virginia. Applicators making applications in multiple states need to contact the pesticide regulatory agency in each state to determine that state's training requirements.

Training information will be updated as it becomes available. In the interim, please contact your local sales representative or dealer/distributor.

EPA Information

For additional information regarding EPA's registration decision regarding Dicamba, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-changes-dicamba-registration>.