

Pesticide Subcommittee Meeting

1/17/20 at 11:00am

Via WebEx

<https://watech.webex.com/recording/service/sites/watech/recording/playback/3c2980b487234958bda289de906094ad>

The purpose of the meeting was to decide how to edit the Pesticide recommendations. The current recommendations are Minnesota's and do not reflect what we already do in Washington. This is probably the topic that will have the greatest change as we have a completely different agricultural base than Minnesota, and we already have a great pesticide training program run through the WSDA and WSU Extension. We don't have to start from scratch and should instead build on our existing programs.

So, how should we edit the document on Google Docs?

Basic rules of editing:

- Anyone and everyone can comment on any recommendation.
- If you are a responsible party listed under 'Responsible Entities' you must at least comment, and should be helping edit that recommendation, especially if it touches on something you (or your department) already do.
- All edits are tracked in Google Docs (it does this automatically).
- Anyone can add a recommendation (and it doesn't have to be complete.)
- Deleting any recommendations is a group decision.
- Recommendations DO NOT HAVE TO BE PERFECT! We are not going to vote on recommendations until August. Take advantage of the large group of experts that you are a part of and ask for help with the editing!

Recommendation 2.7 was deleted (Washington does not grow a lot of soybeans, so did not apply/does not substantially change pollinator health.)

Using Recommendation 2.1 as an example of how we should edit:

Recommendation 2.1

Increase awareness and adoption of the new federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement E595116Z2 and develop a similar state-level program for non-CSP farmers for planting corn/soy seeds not treated with neonicotinoids

Rationale: The goal of CSP Enhancement E595116Z2 is to reduce routine neonicotinoid insecticide seed treatments on corn and soybeans. If farmers were made more aware of the financial incentives to not use neonicotinoid treated seeds more farmers would participate in this program. This strategy could result in a meaningful reduction of

neonicotinoids applied in our state, and would be achieved in farmer-friendly way (rewards farmers for positive environmental action vs. penalizing for detrimental action).

Here is 2.1 as it stands from Minnesota. So we discussed that growers here in Washington are not using seed treatments that we know of, and that corn and soybean, while grown here, are grown in fairly small quantities. So that part of this is a non-issue. However, there are CSP growers in the state, and CSP has other enhancements that are aimed at reducing pesticide use. So Katie has a CSP contact, and she will find out what CSP growers in Washington are already using that aims at reducing pesticide use, and tailor this recommendation to that instead of corn and soybeans. Then we can increase awareness of the federal program, and have a state program that helps reach more growers, but is tailored to fit Washington State.

What is our focus for Pesticides?

We decided that our focus should be on reducing the improper usage of all pesticides and other chemicals that harm pollinators.

Why?

Washington already has one of the most robust pesticide applicator training programs in the nation. We are more stringent than the federal government on pesticide regulation, and we do enforce proper application of pesticides. While there is room for improvement, our state's agriculture heavily relies on pollinators to produce our crops. Growers are therefore highly invested in pollinator health, and should be considered part of the solution, not part of the problem.

We do want to keep pesticides as an option for growers, and research appears to show that at least in Washington, neonicotinoids are not causing problems. Hence our emphasis on proper use of pesticides, and broadening our focus to include all pesticide use.

Kevin and Katie will be responsible for going through the recommendations and editing them to reflect what the WSDA already does.

Some people would like to see more presentations at industry meetings and conferences on how to protect pollinators. They would definitely add pesticide credits for applicators. We may also want to recommend more workshops on how to run IPM programs, since those also help reduce pesticide use in general. These recommendations will probably get cross-posted in the Education & Communication recommendations.

Erin spoke about how they did have Dr. Sheppard come give a talk at one of the meetings she went to, and people were really interested (and kept him two hours after lunch asking questions.) It was suggested that Erin write up a recommendation for the type of training program she would like to see. Possibly a series of talks on how growers can be pollinator protectors and how they do that, including how they integrate protection into an IPM strategy.

There will be a **comment period** (plus editing to reflect Washington rather than Minnesota) until **January 30**, followed by Katie synthesizing those comments the first week of February, and a **meeting** to discuss the changes the **second week of February**. (Education & Communication may wish to follow this time frame.)