

Bayer (Monsanto) in the News this Week

On Monday, August 13, 2018, the media announced a California jury awarded a 46-year-old grounds keeper \$289.2 million dollars after the plaintiff became sick after using Monsanto's Roundup and Ranger Pro products. Dewayne "Lee" Johnson had worked at this job using the products for over two years and became sick with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The jury felt that Monsanto either knew or should have known the about the potential health risks.

Monsanto responded through Scott Partridge, their Vice President who stated that over 800 scientific studies and reviews have been conducted which resulted in the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. National Institutions of Health and Regulatory authorities from around the world concluding that glyphosate does not cause cancer.

The media has stated that there are over 4,000 other plaintiffs, who may be encouraged by the award, to file similar lawsuits which could cost Bayer millions and have them tied up in litigation for years.

Without a doubt, Monsanto will appeal the decision but nevertheless, this decision sets a very dangerous precedence for those of us who work within the agricultural industry. Glyphosate has opened the door to a new modern kind of farming which not only provides efficiency but also has a limited the carbon foot print, provides tremendous environmental benefits including soil and air quality considerations, and added to the net income line of farmers across the U.S. The California decision was an unfortunate one since it now has the potential to divide the agricultural community and we as an industry may be taking a step backwards. Improved chemistry, which has been deemed to be safe, has helped our society as a whole by contributing to a stable and cost-effective food production system which feeds people both domestically and abroad. Let's hope that science prevails over agenda driven pockets of citizens who do not represent a broader and sometimes global consideration when it comes to the commercial production of agricultural products. This will be an issue which we will all want to monitor and react to when appropriate.

- Jim Fitzgerald

2018 Farm Bill Headed to Conference Committee in the Senate

Last month the House of Representatives announced it members for their conference committee. They are: Chairman Mike Conway, R-Texas, Glen Thompson, R- Pennsylvania, Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, Bob Goodlatte, R-Virginia, Roger Marshall R-Kansas, Frank Lucas, R-Oklahoma, David Rouzer, R-North Carolina, Mike Rogers, R-Alabama, Ted Yoho, R-Florida, Austin Scott, D-Georgia, Rodney Davis, R-Illinois, Vicky Hartzler, R-Missouri, and Rick Crawford, R-Arkansas.

Recently named to the Senate conference committee are Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, John Bozeman, R-Arkansas, John Hoeven, R-North Dakota, Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, Pat Leahy, D-Vermont, Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Heidi Heitkamp, D-North Dakota.

These are the people who along with influence from the Trump Administration will decide the farm bill which we will live with for the next five years.

Let's look at the State make-up. Texas-2, Kansas-2, Arkansas-2, North Dakota-2, with all other states included have one Representative or Senator. Perhaps most importantly, how many are from the FWAA region? Oregon-0, Idaho-0, Utah-0, Nevada-0, Washington-0.

Let's include the entire west. Montana-0, Arizona-0, California-0, Wyoming-0, New Mexico-0, and Colorado-0. Geographically looking at a map of the US, the western 40% is not represented, while four of the states conferencing have 2 representatives. When it comes to Agricultural Policy, it's not necessarily a healthy cross-section of all our States and certainly does not appear to be united. Perhaps we should discuss this with our Representatives and Senators and let them know that they should work toward being included if they wish to represent our interests from the west because Agriculture policy affects us all.

- Jim Fitzgerald

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29 CFR 1910.120 HAZWOPER Training is Required

Are you in compliance with OSHA 19.10.120 standards?

OSHA requires at least 24 hours of training for emergency response of hazardous chemicals spills. OSHA standards require a completion of training with certificate of completion from a qualified trainer and an 8-hour refresher course yearly with certificate of proof. The certificates must be retained in your personal file.

If you haven't already signed up, now is the time! Far West has scheduled a 24hr & 8hr Ag Spill Response and Safe Handling of Ammonia training course in Burley Idaho for the dates listed below. Class will be held at the Cassia County Extension Center located at 1459 Overland Ave Burley Idaho, 83318. John Massey who retired with over 38 years of EHS experience will teach Far West's comprehensive training plan that's been developed over years with input from safety committee members and EHS managers from multiple industries. Please see below for details:

Training dates:

September 11th – September 12th:

24-hour Ag Spill Response class, for new employees and first-time attendees. The course includes self-study workbook, and exam which serves as 8 of the 24hr requirement.

September 13th, 2018:

8-hour Ag Spill Response refresher course to maintain your certificate.

September 14th 2018:

4-hour Safe Handling of Ammonia for both Aqua and Anhydrous Ammonia.

Cost to attend:

24-Hour Training Course:

FWAA Members =\$275.00 per person and \$375.00 for non-members

8-Hour Training Course:

FWAA members = \$175.00 Per person and \$275.00 non-members

Ammonia Training: No cost to members

Space is limited so please register on our website at www.fwaa.org and click the "Events" tab to register.

- Mark Swearingen

Spore Sampling with Dr. Woodhall

Farmers have attempted to forecast disease for years based on things like weather and assumptions about pathogens reactions to weather conditions but, a research named Dr. James Woodhall from the University of Idaho's Parma research and extension center is developing a new method based on spore sampling that may revolutionize the industry. Dr. Woodhall plan for the future is to have field personnel collect a sample of spores from the farmers field and over-night mail them to lab where researchers will analyze the sample and give real-time input on diseases before symptoms manifest. Right now, Dr. Woodhall is working with potato growers in Idaho but his hope is to expand his research to other crops as well.

In the near future, automatic spore traps will send real time information to your mobile phone immediately from the field. Imagine the benefits of having the data shared with the field personnel as soon as it was collected. You can learn more about Dr. Woodhall research during his 50-minute presentation at the FWAA January, 2019 conference.

Don't miss out, registration for the conference begins on August 27th. Visit fwaa.org and click on events for more information.

- Mark Swearingen

Need additional copies of the FWAA 2018 Membership Directory?

Member price = \$12.50
Non-member price = \$24.00



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DECEMBER - AUGUST 20, 2018 **JANUARY - AUGUST 27, 2018**