

OREGON



Bio Stimulants

As technology has progressed in both the area of more precisely determining plant nutritional needs and the industry's ability to formulate specific blends more precisely and with greater speed and efficiency, the market appears to have responded with yet one more demand. The demand is to improve soil health while increasing the availability of the applied nutrients which are commonly through the adhesion of Bio Stimulants and Microbes to the dry fertilizer blends. To really appreciate what's happening in this area it requires knowledge and education of Chemistry and Biology of which most may have a level of exposure but certainly are not with a BA, Masters or PhD.

What appears to be somewhat of a challenge is that the microbes are alive and like any living matter it must remain healthy and at some point, will die. As the market responds and has registered fertilizer products with biological ingredients, there appears to be a good deal of variances. This is evident by a recent quarterly report published by the Oregon Department of Agriculture where a large percentage of biological test results were less than what the registration label provided. Here is a link to the report, see page 8.

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/PesticideBulletinSpring.pdf>

Last week I met with Wym Mathews, the Fertilizer Program Director and his support staff of three to discuss the challenges of testing for microbials as provided on the label. What we discussed and what I learned goes well beyond the confines of this article but our group agreed that since Oregon State is the only State to conduct such tests, we will collectively need to broaden the knowledge base of the what, how and why's. Although still in the planning phase and without a promise, we hope to educate and interact within the industry by having ODA speak on the subject at both our December conference and our January conference. The invitation has been extended. We have suggested that since Oregon State has their own State laboratory in Portland, perhaps an explanation and education related to the lab process used, their protocols and a better understanding of the informal and formal appeal process would be valuable. FWAA has invited ODA to author a guest article on this subject in a future publication.

We further discussed the possibility of a Webinar to discuss the registration and testing challenges along with the importance of the variables such as temperature, storage conditions, and the related "shelf life". We hope to be a contributor to the outline of what is covered.

Although much work within the industry is taking place and new products are emerging, it appears that some standardization has not yet developed and we are unaware of any effort to adopt a microbial guarantee or labeling requirements at the AAPFCO level. We have learned that there is a TFI biostimulant work group, a USDA biostimulant work group and the ISO biostimulant work group so the subject is relevant. Finally, a definition for biostimulant is in the House version of the farmbill so we are hopeful that this will be addressed and approved.

Consider registering for one or both conferences through the FWAA website at www.fwaa.org to learn more.

- Jim Fitzgerald

Oregon Application Rules exceeding EPA

Oregon Osha's application exclusion zone is well underway and the rules are becoming more stringent as the new policy takes hold. The new rule which is similar to the EPA's will now require a 150-foot exclusion zone which is 50 feet more than the EPA's rule. The rule will also require boots and shoes be kept in closeable areas so the residuals can't be tracked into living areas. Oregon OSHA will require all doors, ventilation, windows and any other air-intake be shut off during application, a rule the EPA does not follow. The effects of the new law are yet to be determined and whether these new provisions will actually protect workers.

If you or your firm make spray applications in the State of Oregon then sign up today for the December 2018 conference in Kennewick W.A. Garnet R. Cook will be presenting a 50-minute segment on the application exclusion zone.

[Click here to register](#)

- Mark Swearingen

Exhibitor booths are going fast, don't delay and miss out on a great spot!

Going, going, gone.. Our booth spaces are going fast, our December conference has sold out half of the available spots, and our January booths are going just as fast. This is a great opportunity to get your company's products in front of people and make those new connections!

Call Errin at 509-465-5055 or errin@fwaa.org and get your exhibitor packet and booth reserved.

NATIONAL

FMCSA Seeks Feedback On Hour-Of-Service Regulation for Interstate Trucking

The FMCSA is expanding its current 100-air mile short haul rule from 12-hours on-duty to 14-hours on-duty hours to be more consistent with long-haul trucking and will extend the current 14-hour on-duty limitation by two hours when weather conditions are considered adverse. In addition, the revision will revise the 30-minute break for drivers after 8-hours of driving. The rule will also be revising the mandatory 30-minute break for truck drivers during an 8-hour shift and will be reinstating the option for splitting up the required 10-hour off-duty rest break for drivers operating trucks with sleeper-berth compartments. The FMCSA will also be accepting comments as to the effects on the trucking industry with the new electronic logging devices which have now become the standard across 99% of the industry and have brought focus to the HOS regulations. For further details or to submit your comments to the ANPRM click [here](#).

Jessica Kitchell will be doing a 50-minute presentation on December 11th at the December Conference in Kennewick, Washington. Jessica will go in depth regarding the Ag-exemption and electronic logging devices. If you're interested in attending the conference, [Click here](#).

- Mark Swearingen

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