

April 2010

Water Quality & Agricultural Pesticide Use – 2010 Season

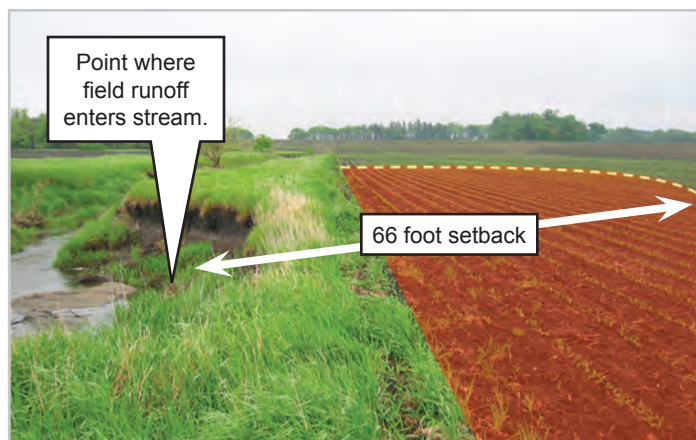
Results of 2009 atrazine use inspections

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted atrazine use inspections in 2009, focusing on required application setbacks from water. The inspections included both private and commercial applicators.

Thirty-eight of the sites inspected required an atrazine application setback from water. Of those sites, 32 applications had proper application setbacks. The six that did not are under regulatory review.

A listing of herbicides that contain atrazine is enclosed along with a diagram of the required atrazine setbacks from water: 50 ft. from wells and sinkholes, 66 ft. from rivers and streams, and 200 ft. from lakes and reservoirs.

MDA atrazine use inspections will continue in 2010.



The required 66-ft. atrazine application setback from rivers and streams is measured from the point where field runoff enters the waterway. The semi-circular area shaded in red shows the required setback area.

Atrazine special registration review

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, has completed a special registration review of the herbicide atrazine. While the review finds that current atrazine regulations protect human health and the environment in Minnesota, it also identifies opportunities to further minimize atrazine impacts. The review summary was posted in the State Register and included a 60-day public comment period which ended March 19th. The agencies are reviewing comments and will revisit the review summary with the Commissioner of Agriculture in coming months. The Commissioner will then determine additional actions, if any, to be taken for the prevention, evaluation, and mitigation of atrazine impacts in Minnesota.

The Minnesota special registration review started before and is separate from atrazine reviews being currently undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). More information at www.mda.state.mn.us/atrazine

Pyrethroid insecticides require application setbacks

Synthetic pyrethroid insecticides are used on soybean, corn, and alfalfa fields and include such brand names as Asana XL, Aztec, Baythroid XL, Force 3G, Lambdastar, and Warrior II. All are restricted use pesticides (RUPs) due to their toxicity to fish and aquatic organisms. In 2009, new use requirements started to appear on labels of pyrethroid products and typically include:

Required application setbacks from aquatic habitats:

25 ft. when ground applied, 150 ft. when aerial applied, 60 ft. when applied in-furrow.

Required vegetative buffer (filter) strip:

10 ft. of vegetative filter strip between treated fields and where runoff enters aquatic habitat.

Other insecticides have application setback requirements similar to pyrethroid products, such as chlorpyrifos products (e.g., Dursban, Lorsban, Warhawk, Yuma). Applicators need to carefully review product labels for application setback and vegetative buffer strip requirements and be aware of water body locations before they take to the field.

MORE >

Revised acetochlor best management practices (BMPs) released

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has revised its Water Quality Best Management Practices for Acetochlor to better reflect how acetochlor is currently being used and to better address detections of acetochlor in water that have approached or exceeded water quality standards.

Copies of the revised best management practices (BMPs) are enclosed. Key changes include:

- A minimum recommended filter strip width of 30 ft.
- A minimum recommended application setback from water of 66 ft.
- The option to use lower application rates when acetochlor is used in a pre- post- herbicide program within an herbicide tolerant crop system.
- The option to rotate to other herbicides within the acetamide family, such as metolachlor, dimethenamid and flufenacet. (Previously, the only option given was to rotate to products outside of the acetamide family.)
- The use of auto-steer, auto-boom shutoff and variable application rate technology as ways of reducing unnecessary herbicide use.

In addition to the acetochlor BMPs, the Water Quality Best Management Practices for All Agricultural Herbicides were revised to be consistent with changes made to the acetochlor BMPs. Copies of both are available at:

www.mda.state.mn/herbicidebmps

The BMPs are a series of options. Producers should pick BMPs most appropriate for their operation, challenging themselves to use as many as practicable. BMPs are voluntary recommendations except when label requirements are referenced.

The MDA thanks all those who assisted in the acetochlor BMP revision process.

Will NPDES permits be required for all pesticide applications?

Pesticide applicators all over Minnesota are asking about the potential impact of new requirements for National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permits beginning April 8, 2011.

New draft permit requirements are being developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the result of federal court decisions involving “applications of pesticides to, over, or near waters.”

The current EPA draft permits, being posted for public comment in May 2010, **do not apply to:**

- Terrestrial applications of pesticides (i.e., applications of pesticides to manage weeds and pests on pasture and cropland) and related pesticide runoff from those applications.
- Spray drift from terrestrial applications.
- Applications to crops requiring irrigation return flow (e.g., commercial wild rice production).

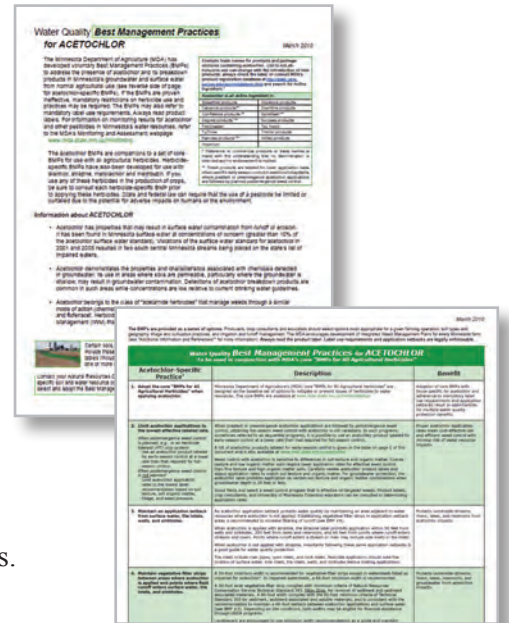
In Minnesota, NPDES permit programs are administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA expects to circulate draft permits that are specific to Minnesota by December 2010. More information is available at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/pesticidepermit.html

The MDA is closely monitoring this issue and is working with the MPCA on the implementation of the new permit requirements. MDA will keep the ag community informed of developments.

Further information

Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticides or contact Janice Hugo, 651-201-6141, janice.hugo@state.mn.us, to request materials or to contact MDA Pesticide Management Unit staff.

Have a safe growing season!

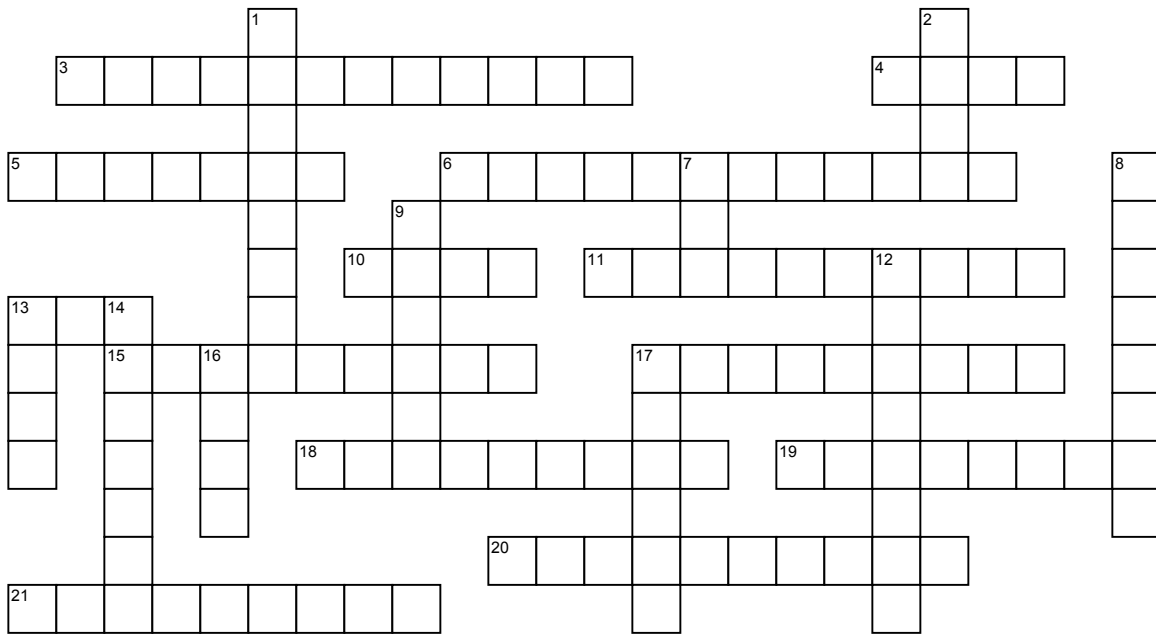


Gregg Regimbal, Pesticide Management Unit Supervisor



Know your pesticides and water quality!

Pesticide Management Unit - Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture - www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticides



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 3 A stream which dries up part of the year is _____.
- 4 Do not apply atrazine within 200 feet of a _____.
- 5 The distance between a pesticide application and water is called a _____.
- 6 Lower rates of acetochlor can be used when followed by planned application of _____ herbicide(s).
- 10 The "B" in BMP stands for _____.
- 11 Most widely used herbicide a.i. in MN.
- 13 The pesticide label is the _____.
- 15 To protect water, apply pesticides at the lowest _____ labeled rate.
- 17 Do not apply atrazine within 50 feet of wells and _____.
- 18 Unless they cite label requirements, BMPs are _____.
- 19 Weed resistance and water pollution can be reduced with pesticide _____.
- 20 The "M" in BMP stands for _____.
- 21 For atrazine setbacks, a drainage ditch is considered a stream when its flow is _____.

DOWN

- 1 The "P" in BMP stands for _____.
- 2 Pesticides can move from fields into water with _____.
- 7 Month that pesticides are commonly detected in streams.
- 8 Most widely used RUP in Minnesota.
- 9 Pyrethroid insecticides require a 150 foot setback from water for _____ applications.
- 12 Helps identify pest problems.
- 13 Conservation tillage can reduce both soil and pesticide _____.
- 14 Pesticide applicators have an eye on the _____.
- 16 Number of pesticides commonly detected by MDA monitoring in groundwater.
- 17 Do not apply atrazine within 66 feet of where field runoff enters a _____.



WORD BANK: Aerial, atrazine, best, effective, five, glyphosate, intermittent, lake, law, loss, management, may, perennial, postemergent, practice, rain, rotation, scouting, setback, sinkholes, stream, voluntary, weather.

Know your pesticides and water quality!

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Solution:

