

Pesticide Application Safety Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 30th, 2023

Members Present: Lauren Jenks, Ignacio Marquez, Sen. Rebecca Saldana, Rep. Tom Dent, Sen. Judy Warnick, Bradley Farrar, Calvin Ohlson-Keihn, Holly Neibergs, Eddie Kasner, Gwen Hoheisel, Ofelio Borges-, April Clayton, Scott Nielsen

Next Meeting: TBA Late Oct/Early Nov 2023

1. Announcements

- WSDA HB1019 One Pager, per request from last PASCO meeting.

Pesticide management one pager by WSDA reviews four major programs: Pesticide Registration, Pesticide Licensing and Recertification, Pesticide Compliance, and technical Services and Education.

- Agenda Review

Griselda has synthesized information from last PASCO meeting and to review gaps and opportunities for the workgroup to focus on this Winter.

2. Discussion

- Role of Pesticide Advisory Board and PASCO

The Pesticide Advisory Board reviews broadly all pesticide applications, not just farmworkers. The Advisory Board has not yet convened-in process of reviewing from applicant pool.

PASCO specifically looks to understanding and preventing pesticide exposures for farm working communities and for farm worker safety. PASCO collaboration may flow work to the Pesticide Advisory Board.

Ignacio: role of advocates/farm workers on these boards and committees to share education and being able to provide a system when there is a misuse of pesticides. Allow them to come and see what the role of the committee is and what is being accomplished in these conversations.

Lauren: Has an environment justice assessment (HEAL Act) been done for the Dept of Ag/Pesticide Advisory Board? May be a way to get community input on the best ways to engage community in the work.

Dent: Would like to keep these two groups somewhat separate, as PASCO's focus on safety on application (whether that is education, identifying exposures, technical issues) is important.

- Extension of PASCO: current sunset date of July 2025

Ignacio, Dent: Supports extending PASCO. Committee feels there is still work to be done, especially as science and technology regarding pesticides evolves.

Warnick: Committee agrees. Work is done in silos and would like to bridge communication between all the work that is already happening by the entities that are all involved in pesticide safety as PASCO moves forward.

Lauren: Supports extending this work by removing the sunset date and would like to think about fiscal adjustments for PASCO to move forward as well. Positions for 'connecting' work silos have been cut, so for future consideration may require more focused invested support from PASCO.

Discussion on not just next steps, but to focus on information that goes out to members after meetings to share knowledge. Lots of information has been gathered at this time and need to focus on whether there is legislative or fiscal support needed for next steps or recommendations from PASCO (e.g., More data analysis would need an epi position).

Overall support for revising PASCO current sunset date and extending PASCO.

- Data Utilization for Prevention

Discussion on how to support qualitative review of cases for understanding root causes. Each department does their own reviews because they are looking for different items in their data collection, and inconsistency of information collected can be an issue but there is an opportunity for all agencies to convene and share data as well. There is support for better data collection and analysis.

Eddie: Proposed idea of unified data set, having seen the rich data information from DOH and WSDA. To include data from LNI and poison control could allow more analysis. Shared idea of 20 most popular Prevention of Exposure codes/categories of pesticide exposure.

DOH and WSDA share case numbers.

Bradley: LNI has SHARP program that could include pesticide exposures.

Scott: JLARC audit will provide a wealth of information and deep analysis on pesticide surveillance and prevention. In Jan/Feb 2024 will be initial reports and the final report will be out April 2024.

Committee is interested in reviewing cases in depth and propose agencies to discuss when/how and to propose a plan at next PASCO meeting. Committee is interested in reviewing where/when different agencies meet and where work is being siloed to assess areas of collaboration that may already exist. The PASCO Advisory Work Group is interested in seeing how LNI, DOH, WSDA conduct routine or complaint-based inspections and the overlap or different information that is being collected by agencies to review the information consistency and see where there can be better alignment.

- Training and Outreach

April: Interested in use of 3rd party safety groups such as Global Gap and where to streamline education and training coming from certification programs and from the State. Potential partnerships with the Farm Bureau and H2A programs to expand on training outreach and opportunities.

Gwen: Interested in the unique role of partnerships like Farm Bureau, to enhance interactions or trainings with farmworkers.

Discussion regarding appropriate training to appropriate groups and how to expand education and training outreach to involve broader agricultural workforces and nearby communities.

Ofelio: Certified applicators can be trainers, but that can include privately licensed applicators so there is a gap of education from what WSDA provides through their Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP)-to train trainers.

ALP is grant limited unfortunately and they need to train leaders to prep for possible course in Nov 2024. Discussion interested in expanding the 'train the trainer' two-day program and how to get more people interested in this program. You do not need to be a pesticide applicator/handler or farm worker to go through this training, so there is opportunity for people who are part of the pesticide prevention process or farm community members.

Bradley: ALP program goes beyond just pesticide safety, but also how to understand how to train others (adult learning methodologies, training tools). LNI has a safety and outreach program that offers the WSHA-10 training for the public (mirrors OSHA training) that includes pesticide safety along with other topics. Have created pathways to offer WSHA training in high schools.

Gwen: Want to focus on elevating Ag forces knowledge on how to report, what are the risks, what are the resources and elevate a worker right's aspect and how to measure that impact. Brought up that are the methods of assessing training improvement, but there should be a focus for qualitative analysis for worker improvement in understanding their rights and work, not just the trainers.

Saldana: Possible next step with partnerships with employers to have those who have completed the 'train the trainer' program to train the workforce. Interested in building a best practice. Leaderships program really builds soft skills to manage up, laterally, and manage down.

Ofelio: Ignacio is on the committee for the Ag Safety Day and could offer more pesticide safety topics for workers looking to get credits. A great place to restructure perhaps, to emphasize leadership training.

Ignacio: Two locations do the Ag Safety Day, over 200 hundred people every year and there is always pesticide training information. Most of the workers that attend are US workers. There is an audience there that is ready to take any training.

Saldana: Mindful of how much our workforce is domestic versus H2A. H2A workers are here for shorter time periods, 6-9 months, and get so much information upfront. H2A workforce may be getting shorter information and being overburdened with information without time to learn and understanding for productive effectiveness of safety information.

Discussion on options for refresher courses, maybe a flyer, an app, or a training video. Importance on maintaining and growing leadership program to be able to empower workers to be trainers.

Committee is interested in reviewing what trainings are being done across LNI/DOH/WSDA and where they may overlap or be providing additional information for workers and how to grow workforce training.

Saldana: For scale to happen, interested in understanding the investment from our external Ag partners. Is there a place for organized labor with OFM/Grower's League/SDA with our agencies to restructure that for more investors and deepen commitment. Would like to see learnings to be able to duplicate with these other agricultural sectors. This information is not part of the PNASH study.

Ignacio: Also keep in mind Community Health Centers and their role with farm workers. They should be part of this process to help with the prevention.

- Reporting Gaps

Discussion on how to better encourage reporting from medical community, how to target rural healthcare communities, and what barriers exist for reporting pesticide incidents. DOH RCW states that the pesticide program should provide medical education on pesticide exposure, but there is no funding invested in that work. Possible 2025 Legislative plan to focus on that.

Ignacio: Would like to reach out to community health centers to understand barriers to patient education and pesticide reporting.

Saldana: Latino Health Center has been engaged on patient education and PASCO could involve community health centers or UW Health to join larger advisory group. There is a value to having them at the table, to understand their training process for promotoras or health education outreach as well.

Warnick: Including someone from the medical community could have better insight on getting better pesticide reporting.

DOH may not capture a case if it is filtered through LNI, and not all cases may lead to an LNI claim, which delays the ability for investigators to go out and get samples or interview workers. Would like to focus on educating health centers that pesticide reports can be sent to the DOH or poison centers. Not all exposure cases involve workers (could be drift) and not all health centers complete LNI claims. Pesticide exposures are still a notifiable condition.

Eddie: EPA training for healthcare providers so exist called 'Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings and could add info on reporting back to DOH to close the loop on

reporting. Would like to engage train the trainers and people on the ground to also hear what barriers in reporting after training are. Another partner to think about would be the rural fire fighters and rural partnership program as they are engaged in community spaces in rural areas and could be a conduit for safety information.

3. Action Items:

- PASCO: Getting DOH, WSDA, LNI together and delving into how cases are reviewed and who would be in the room and what it would take to cross reference shared cases of human exposure.
- Advisory Workgroup: Delve into investigation process and looking at areas of overlap and areas of improvement and identifying important differences between agencies.
- PASCO: What changes do we if any do we make to PASCO while removing or extending sunset date? Schedule November meeting to discuss as the deadline for agency requested legislation for the short session has passed.