

ACRC NEWS

from the Ag Container Recycling Council

ACRC Members

AgraQuest, Inc.
Albaugh, Inc.
Amvac Chemical Corporation
Arysta LifeScience
of North America, LLC
BASF Corporation
Bayer CropScience
Bayer HealthCare, LLC, Animal Health
Division
Becker Underwood, Inc.
Brandt Consolidated, Inc.
Certis USA, LLC
Cheminova, Inc.
Chemtura Corporation
Dow AgroSciences, LLC
DuPont Crop Protection
Ensystem, Inc.
FMC Agricultural Products
Fine Americas, Inc.
Gowan Company, LLC
Helena Chemical Company
Isagro USA
Liphatech, Inc.
Makhteshim-Agan of
North America, Inc.
Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc.
Monsanto Company
Monterey AgResources
Nichino America, Inc.
Nufarm Americas, Inc.
Pace International, LLC
PBI/Gordon Corporation
PROKoZ, Inc.
RiceCo, LLC
SePRO Corporation
SipcamAdvan
Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
Tenkoz, Inc.
TurfCare Supply Corporation
United Phosphorous, Inc.
Valent BioSciences Corporation
Valent U.S.A. Corporation
Wilbur-Ellis Company
Winfield Solutions, LLC

Affiliate Member Companies
Cimarron Label
Cousins Currie - Division of Silgan
Plastics Canada
IBC North America
Lee Container
Mauser Corporation
Pretium Packaging
Reliance Products
Varicon, LLC



Note from the ACRC Treasurer

“All agricultural crop protection, specialty pest control, micronutrient/fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product manufacturers working proactively together to provide a sustainable process and governance for collection and recycling of rigid properly rinsed nonrefillable HDPE pesticide containers with costs shared equitably and fairly across the industry.”

In accordance with the ACRC Vision shown above, we are committed to utilizing our resources for the most efficient and effective methods of recycling nonrefillable plastic pesticide containers.

As ACRC Treasurer and a member of the Executive Board, I work closely with each of the committee chairs in the development of their budgets. Budget stewardship along with solid business principles is a very important element of the ACRC Purpose and Strategy. We are committed to utilizing our monetary resources effectively to achieving our objectives.

The ACRC operates on a very limited budget that is based on membership dues. Over 85% of the budget is directed to collecting and recycling over eight million pounds of plastic. The remaining 15% is divided among the External Affairs, Technical and Contracts committees as well as to general administration costs. Also it is important to note that over the past three years we have increased our communication and support to the industry's regional associations (such as MACA) as well as to the State associations across the country.

Thanks to all ACRC member companies for their support as we continue to better our efforts with Ag Container Recycling and Stewardship!

Jim Jenkins
ACRC Treasurer

International Recognition of the Cost Effectiveness of the ACRC Program

CropLife International (CLI) oversees and promotes the product stewardship initiatives of its individual member organizations including CropLife America (CLA). Container management is one of the elements of CLI product stewardship oversight. One of the initiatives within container management is to annually “benchmark” individual country container recycling program costs. Due to vast differences in labor costs, other resource input costs, exchange rates, etc, countries are grouped with other similar countries; e.g. Western European countries. The U.S. is grouped with Canada and Australia. The countries in this group have all submitted 2010 container management costs (attached) to CLI. The ACRC Executive Board is pleased to report that, as in 2009 and previous years, the U.S. program operated by the ACRC is the lowest cost program of the three when measured on the basis of cost per pound recycled.

These results are testimony to the ongoing commitment of the ACRC Executive Board and management to the identification of cost saving initiatives and we sincerely thank all of the ACRC member companies for their continued support of these efforts.

ACRC Participates in MACA Mini-Bulk Summit-Part 2

As you may be aware, new US EPA rules and regulations for refillable containers; e.g. mini-bulks, go into effect this August 16th, 2011. The new rules require that all mini-bulk containers must be fitted with one-way valves and/or tamper evident seals, and meet container standards for re-use, or be disposed of or recycled. Recognizing that accurate information is critical to making sure the new rules are implemented properly, the Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) sponsored a program to review the new rules on June 7-8, 2011 in St. Louis.

JD Fish (Bayer CropScience), ACRC Mini-Bulk Task Force Chair, and Ron Perkins, ACRC Executive Director, participated in a panel on Industry Initiatives. Perkins reviewed the Iowa pilot program that the ACRC co-sponsored with the Agri-Business Association of Iowa (AAI) and described the future role of ACRC in mini-bulk recycling. Specifically, based on the Iowa pilot experience, the ACRC determined that adequate recycling infrastructure already exists and that ACRC funding of any collection or recycling program for mini-bulks in the foreseeable future was unnecessary. The ACRC role will be to offer guidance to assist stakeholder groups that desire to plan and implement mini-bulk recycling programs in the future. This will include dissemination of related documents produced by CLA and US EPA, and a video documenting the Iowa pilot.

Fish provided a review of Compliance Steps Taken by the Ag Chem Industry over the past five years. These included implementation of an awareness campaign led by CropLife America (CLA), CLA development of an instructional DVD in conjunction with US EPA, publication of two instructional brochures; “Guidance for Safely Cleaning Refillable Pesticide Container for Refilling or Rededication,” and “Description of Refillable Containers for Liquid Pesticides.”

Other presentations included a US EPA Update on Container Rules & Regulations by Nancy Fitz (US EPA) and descriptions of mini-bulk recycling programs offered by industry vendors. A copy of all of the presentations and handouts has been posted on the MACA website at <http://www.maca.org/education/mini-bulk-containers/>. Referenced documents are available from the ACRC by calling (877) 952-2272 (toll free).



***J D Fish, Bayer CropScience,
ACRC External Affairs
Committee Chair, speaks at
MACA on industry initiatives
relating to mini-bulk containers.***



Update on the ACRC RAM (Risk Assessment Model)

ACRC supports pesticide container recycling as a method for accomplishing two product stewardship objectives:

1. Removing as many empty plastic drums/jugs from the environment as practically possible
2. Reusing the plastic in a way that maintains the industry's commitment to stewardship of both our crop protection products and the cropland to which they are applied.

Toward that end, the ACRC has always limited the use of its collected plastic to end-uses that have little or no direct contact with humans; e.g. drain tile, truck bed liners; etc. In addition, the ACRC wanted to further minimize the risk by ensuring that any potential residues were not present on, or in the end-use product. Thus, when the ACRC was formed in the early 1990's, the organization employed a regulatory compliance consulting firm, Technical Services Group (TSG), to develop a Risk Assessment Model (RAM), that took the toxicological effects of 34 compounds into account and analyzed them to ensure that, after triple rinsing empty containers, the potential residue on the containers would not be an issue in the reuse of the recycled plastic. The original RAM program was developed in the DOS computer language and included several chemicals that are no longer used in significant amounts in US agriculture. It also did not include newer chemistries that were either just being developed or were not even in use in 1990-1992. Thus the ACRC Executive Board and the Technical Committee were given the task of working with the original program and updating it for present and future use. This is especially important as we look for new end- uses for both the current plastic collected (from 55 gallon and smaller containers) and mini-bulk containers, some of which are made with other types of plastic.

The Technical Committee went back to TSG and the original personnel that developed the RAM and began discussions on how to update it. We are in the process of converting the older program from DOS-based (which no one uses anymore) to Windows-based and instead of having it in a specific computer/CD based system it will be Internet-based and be able to be updated as new chemistries becomes available. Currently we are looking at 50 chemistries. Some (about 25%) are from the original program since these products still have significant use in US agriculture. The other 75% are new chemistries coming from classes of chemistry not used prior to the early 1990's. These classes include, but are not limited to, neo-nicotinyl insecticides, Strobilurin and Triazole fungicides, sulfonyl herbicides and amino acid herbicides. At the same time several classes of chemistry have significantly declined in use, (organophosphate insecticides and carbamate insecticides, along with benzimidazole fungicides) and are being deleted from the RAM'S database.

The Technical Committee requested and received Executive Board approval to update the RAM. Once the chemistry is reviewed and the new program is finished (planned by the fourth quarter 2011) we will have an updated RAM program that will allow the staff and the Technical Committee to review these chemistries for use in potential new end-uses. By entering the exposure level of the end-use product in both production and daily use, we will be better able to determine if this is an acceptable use for recycled pesticide containers. The ACRC believes that this update of the RAM will greatly increase our potential to find new uses for our plastic and also help companies who are involved in mini-bulk recycling to identify end-uses that ensure environmentally responsible product stewardship.

This update of the RAM will make a significant contribution to the accomplishment of the ACRC's product stewardship objectives in an environmentally responsible manner. If you have further questions relating to the RAM update or the end-uses of plastic collected in the ACRC program, please contact the ACRC at www.acrecycle.org or call (877) 952-2272.



Application of the Risk Assessment Model (RAM) has shown Field Drain Tile to be an acceptable end-use for recycled pesticide containers.



ACRC to Redesign Web Site

Recognizing the need to provide pesticide container recycling stakeholders and other interested parties with up-to-date and useful information, the ACRC has implemented an initiative to update the ACRC web site: www.acrecycle.org. The initiative will be lead by the ACRC External Affairs Committee, chaired by JD Fish (Bayer CropScience), and a sub-committee led by Leslie Kvasnicka (Valent USA).

The first step in the update was to conduct a survey of selected individuals from user groups including ACRC member representatives, contractors, state agri-business, regulatory organizations and other national associations. Their input will be used to help the ACRC decide how the website can provide the most value to our users. The responses have been tabulated and summarized, and are currently being evaluated by the External Affairs Committee. The Committee recommendations for redesign will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board at its August meeting. A web design firm will be immediately employed to accomplish the redesign objectives. The target date for completion of the web site and its new redesign is October 1, 2011.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations based on your experience visiting the ACRC web site please feel free to contact Joyce Jarvis at (877) 952-2272 or jjarvis@acrecycle.org.

In Memoriam

The ACRC lost one of its best and brightest stars on February 28, 2011, with the passing of Nancy Patterson Engman. Nancy passed away at home after a courageous two year battle against melanoma cancer. She was fifty-seven years young. Her professional work life was as a packaging technician / expert for corporations such as Clorox, Chevron, and Monsanto which eventually led her to Valent where she was senior packaging manager for over 16 years. During her work career, Nancy served as a Board and Committee member of the ACRC for many years and her skills greatly supported this important stewardship effort. Nancy loved life and embraced it with an open heart and mind. She valued friendships and worked at keeping them. She loved to volunteer her time and be involved. She was an active member in church programs, with a quilting group, and loved to ride her bicycle. In fact, she participated in the 1987 American Lung Association Trans-America Bike Trek (peddling over 3600 miles in 47 days). She was also an annual participant and volunteer fundraiser in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. A memorial service was held in April at the same lovely place where she and her husband, Dave, were married a few years earlier. She will be greatly missed by family and friends but her smile and warmth will always be with us.



Nancy Engman



Published by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). The ACRC is a non-profit organization that promotes, facilitates and manages the collection and recycling of properly rinsed HDPE crop protection product containers.

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Upcoming Meetings

August 18, 2011:

ACRC Executive Board Meeting, Walnut Creek, CA, hosted by Valent USA

October 27, 2011:

ACRC Annual Meeting of Members, and Annual Executive Board Meeting, Washington, DC, hosted by McKenna Long & Aldridge

February 2012:

ACRC Executive Board Meeting and Annual Contractors' Meeting, Boise, ID, in conjunction with The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) conference.



ACRC Collection Program

