

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation Criticizes NMFS' Revised Draft BiOp for Chlorothalonil

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“The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) strongly urges the EPA to slow down its revised BiOp evaluation on the fungicide chlorothalonil for the sake of good science.

As you know, this fungicide has been registered and used in a way safe to man and the environment since 1970. Should we lose it, there would be no ready substitutes—it is a foliar fungicide that shows a protective action for 65 crops against a broad spectrum of plant diseases, some 125 in all. Unlike other agricultural tools in this space, chlorothalonil acts in multiple ways that prevents the emergence of resistant strains.

Over 8,000 OFBF members are online, informed and highly literate in scientific methodology. What we see coming out of this process is disappointing, to say the least.

We steadfastly support rigorous risk assessments and risk-management decisions based on sound science. That is why we are alarmed at both the flawed and insufficient way in which this process is being handled—from ridiculously tight deadlines for public evaluation and comment by key stakeholders, to the limited use of best available toxicity data when considering the adverse habitat modifications in the revised BiOp.

Losing chlorothalonil would have a devastating impact on farmers throughout the Pacific Northwest and undermine the economic viability of their communities. Today, this vital farming tool is used on 35% of potato acres, 17% of all acres growing vegetables and approximately 14,000 acres of fruit and nut crops.

Please slow down this process and allow for a more transparent and deliberative approach.”

To access OFBF's comments, click on

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0654-0398>