The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

www.mass.gov/agr

PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTTENDANCE

Michael Moore, DPH, Food Protection Program, (Chair)	Present
Taryn LaScola, MDAR, Designee for Commissioner Randle	Present
Meg Blanchet, DPH, Designee for Commissioner Goldstein	Present
Eric Seaborn, DCR, Designee for Commissioner LaChapelle	Present
Richard Berman, Commercial Applicator	Present

The Board did meet or exceed the minimum number (3) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

A. REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR July 15, 2025

Motion: T. LaScola
Second: M. Blanchet
Discussion: None
In Favor: E. Seaborn, M. Moore, T. LaScola, M. Blanchet
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

B. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR September 23, 2025, Subcommittee cover sheet with the exception of the following products:

1. FAME +C Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-398,
2. SOLITARE WSL Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-357,
3. ForceOut, EPA Reg. No. 228-589-102472, and
4. TS601® Biological Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 95699-1.

Moved: T. LaScola
Second: M. Blanchet
Discussion: None
In Favor: M. Blanchet, T. LaScola, E. Seaborn, M. Moore
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that the use of the following products,

1. FAME +C Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-398, containing chlorothalonil, and
2. SOLITARE WSL Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-357, containing sulfentrazone.

may cause an unreasonable risk to man or the environment, when taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use. This determination is based upon the leaching potential and toxicological concern of these substances as defined in the "Protection of Groundwater Supplies from Non-Point Source Pesticide Contamination" Regulations. Therefore, the Subcommittee hereby modifies the registration classification of agricultural/commercial pesticide products containing **chlorothalonil,** and **sulfentrazone** from general to restricted use for groundwater concerns.

Moved: T. LaScola
Second: M. Blanchet
Discussion: None
In Favor: M. Blanchet, T. LaScola, E. Seaborn, M. Moore
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

Motion: the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that the use of the following product:

1. ForceOut, EPA Reg. No. 228-589-102472, containing iso-octyl ester of 2,4-D dichlorophenoxyacetic acid at 38.03%,

be categorized as restricted use pursuant to the Subcommittee's decision on April 14, 1989, to register products containing 20% or more of **2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)** and/or its derivatives as state restricted use.

Moved: T. LaScola
Second: M. Blanchet
Discussion: None
In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, E. Seaborn, M. Moore
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

C. <u>NEW ACTIVE INGREDIENT</u>

Miller presented information on the new active ingredient (AI) *Methylorubrum populi* strain NLS0089, formulated in TS601 Biological Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 95699-1, a broad spectrum, preventative product for the suppression of listed plant diseases in a variety of fruit, vegetable, and feed crops.

The product contains a minimum of one billion colony forming units (cfu) per gram. By weight, the active ingredient is 2% of the formulation. *Methylorubrum populi* is an aerobic bacterium that has been found to improve plant health and resistance to fungal pathogens related to wilt, root rot, and damping off. Its modes of action involve competitive niche occupation, plant nutrient acquisition, and enhancing immune system resistance. This strain was originally isolated from a broccoli leaf in Missouri in 2012.

Handling: The signal word on the TS601 label is 'Caution'. Handlers are required to wear personal protective equipment to cover skin, including waterproof or chemical-resistant gloves, protective eyewear, and shoes plus socks. Mixers, loaders, and applicators must also wear NIOSH-approved particulate or air-purifying

respirators, since repeated exposure to high concentrations of microbial protein material can cause allergic sensitization. The Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is 4 hours for agricultural workers.

Environmental hazard language prohibits direct application to water, areas where surface waters are present, or to intertidal areas below the mean high-water mark. Because the submitted label is for a 50-pound bag, users are directed to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Uses: TS601 is a foliar spray or soil application for select field and greenhouse crops, including caneberries and cranberries if they are in a non-flooded field, strawberries, grapes, bulb vegetables, corn, soybeans, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, leafy and legume vegetables, roots and tubers, and stone fruits.

Foliar application methods are spray by aerial, ground, or chemigation. Soil drench, either by injection or incorporation and seed treatment are also allowed uses. Application is recommended prior to or in the early stages of disease development, though this product can be applied up to and on the day of harvest (Pre-Harvest Interval = 0 days). Application rates for sprays are 4-10 oz/acre or a maximum of 200 oz product/100 lbs seeds in the case of leafy vegetable seeds.

The label states that spray is not allowed to drift from the application site and contact people or sensitive areas. Medium to coarse droplet size is recommended, temperature inversions must be avoided, and applications can occur only when wind speeds are 3-10 mph as measured on site with an anemometer.

Human Health: The EPA human health risk assessment was based on studies using both the technical grade active ingredient and the TS601 end product. The acute pulmonary toxicity/pathogenicity study conducted with a single dose of ~3 billion cfu found it not infective or pathogenic to rats and demonstrated a pattern of clearance. An injection study using 12 million cfu/animal also found it not to be infective or pathogenic. The end product TS601 is Toxicity Category IV (lowest level) for acute oral and dermal exposures and Category III for acute inhalation. It is also Category IV for acute eye irritation and primary dermal irritation. No toxicological endpoints were identified.

EPA did not conduct a quantitative exposure assessment since no adverse effects were observed. Any dietary or drinking water exposure changes resulting from applications are expected to be insignificant since *Methylorubrum* species are already present in food and water naturally.

The most likely non-occupational exposure is expected to be agricultural drift. However, risk is considered negligible due to the demonstrated lack of infectivity or pathogenicity, no toxicity endpoints, and its ubiquity in the environment. EPA concluded that there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result to the US population, including infants and children, from aggregate exposure. Furthermore, EPA states that residues of strain NLS0089 will be covered by an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance in or on food commodities. Occupational exposure is also of low concern, but the label PPE requirements will provide additional protection.

Ecological Risk: The EPA ecological risk assessment found no adverse effects for birds, mammals, or plants. Doses used in guideline studies were on the order of hundreds of millions to billions cfu, which are multiple orders of magnitude higher than calculated environmental concentrations expected from applications. Registrants submitted studies for three insects: ladybird beetles, green lacewings, and honey bees. No beetle or lacewing effects were observed, but honey bees with continuous high exposure exhibited a control group-normalized mortality of 33% by the end of the 12-day study.

Exposure of aquatic organisms via spray drift from treated fields is expected to be low. No adverse effects were observed during testing on rainbow trout but *Daphnia magna* exhibited a 16% decrease in survival at

the 10^6 cfu/mL magnitude. Since this is 100 to 1000 times more concentrated than the maximum expected in water bodies from applications, no adverse effects are expected for fish or aquatic invertebrates. In the case of runoff, this strain is not expected to persist and would likely return to background levels before reaching waterbodies.

Endangered Species Act: EPA made a 'no effect' determination for direct and indirect effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats.

Groundwater Protection: Methylorubrum populi strain NLS0089 does not meet the criteria for being classified as a potential groundwater contaminant in Massachusetts.

Move: that the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approve the product registration for TS601® Biological Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 95699-1, containing the new active ingredient ***Methylorubrum populi*** **strain NLS0089**, which has never before been registered in Massachusetts.

D. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forward.

E. ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the September 23, 2025, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: R. Berman
Second: M. Moore
Discussion: None
In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, E. Seaborn, M. Moore
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

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