

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
Commissioner

PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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 March 17, 2026

Motion: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: E. Seaborn, M. Moore, T. LaScola, M. Blanchet, R. Berman

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

B. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS

Motion That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR April 21, 2026, Subcommittee cover sheet with the exception of the following products:

- Sinister Nexus, EPA Reg. No. 5905-662,
- APEX Chlorothalonil 720 SurfLOK, EPA Reg. No. 5481-619-103636,
- Animous, EPA Reg. No. 91234-399,
- RedEagle Metribuzin, EPA Reg. No. 85678-100,
- Vertento/Zivalgo, EPA Reg. No. 100-1711,
- Atexzo/Vykenda, EPA Reg. No. 100-1703,
- Vanecto Cockroach Gel Bait, EPA Reg. No. 100-1706,
- Equento 400FS, EPA Reg. No. 100-1708,

- Opello, EPA Reg. No. 100-1710, and
- Incipio, EPA Reg. No. 100-1712.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: M. Blanchet

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

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

- Sinister Nexus, EPA Reg. No. 5905-662, containing s-metolachlor and metribuzin,
- APEX Chlorothalonil 720 SurfLOK, EPA Reg. No. 5481-619-103636, containing chlorothalonil,
- Animous, EPA Reg. No. 91234-399, containing dinotefuran, and
- RedEagle Metribuzin, EPA Reg. No. 85678-100, containing metribuzin

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 **metolachlor, metribuzin, chlorothalonil, and dinotefuran**, from general to restricted use for groundwater concerns.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

C. Experimental Use Permit (EUP) application: The Pesticide Board Subcommittee will consider the approval of an EUP for evaluating crop safety and efficacy of Callisto Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1131); a.i., mesotrione) applications to cranberry by unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

MDAR staff introduced the subject and mentioned that the Department received an application for an Experimental Use Permit to evaluate crop safety and efficacy of Callisto Herbicide application on cranberry using drones' technology by using UAV technology. It was noted that the use of UAV application is an emerging technology in field of pesticide applications. Regulatory aspects are evolving, including the product labeling aspect. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts expressed an interest in using UAV for the use of Callisto Herbicide on cranberries.

The purpose of the project is to evaluate crop safety and efficacy of UAV applications and to generate data to support a future Special Local Need (SLN) registration for this application method. Staff explained that while Callisto is currently registered for use on cranberry, the product labeling does not include aerial application to cranberry. Because the total treatment area is less than 10 acres, a federal EUP is not required, and the proposed work qualifies under the Massachusetts Experimental Use Permit regulations as an unregistered use of a registered pesticide.

Staff reviewed the proposed project, including supervision by personnel from the UMass Cranberry Station, with applications conducted by or under the direct supervision of a certified Category 49 (Research and

Demonstration) applicator. Additional permit requirements include notification to MDAR of treatment locations prior to application, posting of test areas, submission of a final report, and immediate reporting of any adverse effects.

Representatives from the UMass Cranberry Station provided additional information on the use of UAV technology in cranberry production. They noted that growers have been using UAVs for several years to apply certain pesticides and fertilizers where product labeling allows aerial application. They explained that the project would evaluate the potential for precision applications using prescription maps to target weed-infested areas rather than treating entire cranberry beds. This approach could improve application efficiency and potentially reduce overall herbicide use.

Subcommittee members discussed the current and future use of UAV technology in pesticide application and the potential benefits of more targeted applications. Members expressed support for the project and recognized the potential of UAV technology to improve precision and reduce pesticide use.

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee hereby grant the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) for evaluation of crop safety and efficacy of Callisto Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1131; a.i., mesotrione) applied to cranberry via unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- The Department must be notified in writing, prior to use, to confirm the location(s) of the application(s).
- Applicators using this material must be certified in category 49 (research and demonstration), or under the direct supervision of an applicator certified in category 49.
- Public access to experimental areas is appropriately limited by posting signs stating "Notice Pesticide Testing". Such signs shall be posted at the perimeter of the test area and at every principle entrance fronting a public road. Additional matters related to sign posting; such as, the duration of sign posting, shall follow the standard guidance provided by MDAR in accord with Section 13.06(3) of 333 CMR, regulations for the application of pesticides to turf on golf courses.
- All other precautions and restrictions specified in the EUP use instructions must be followed and all applications are subject to provisions of the Pesticide Control Act.
- In accordance with Section 7.09 of 333 CMR the applicant is required to submit a report to the Subcommittee within six months of the conclusion of the permit. The report must include data gathered during the program; dates of application(s) and any adverse effects noted.
- Applications for annual renewal of this permit shall be submitted to the Subcommittee prior to the expiration of this permit.
- The permittee shall immediately report to the Department any indication of adverse effects to humans or the environment arising from the use of, or exposure to, the pesticide authorized under this EUP.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: E. Seaborn

Discussion: See above

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

D. EPA Guidance on Special Local Need (SLN) Labels: The Pesticide Board Subcommittee will have a discussion related to new guidance from U.S. EPA regarding the use of expiration dates on special local need labels.

MDAR staff informed the Subcommittee of recent U.S. EPA guidance regarding expiration dates on Section 24(c) Special Local Need (SLN) registrations. EPA advised states that expiration dates on SLN labels are no longer recommended because periodic label renewals have created administrative burdens and tracking challenges. EPA also clarified that expiration dates have never been a federal requirement and that states may continue to use them when practical.

Staff explained that MDAR believes expiration dates continue to provide value by prompting periodic review of SLN registrations to determine whether the special local need still exists and whether the registration should be renewed. The Department noted that the five-year renewal cycle has not created a significant administrative burden for the Massachusetts program and that several other states also intend to continue using expiration dates.

Subcommittee members expressed support for maintaining the current practice, provided it remains manageable for the Department. No concerns were raised regarding continuation of the existing policy. As no action was required, the Subcommittee reached consensus to continue the current practice of including expiration dates on Massachusetts SLN registrations.

E. Special Local Needs (SLN) Renewal Request: The Pesticide Board Subcommittee will consider the request for renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration SLN No. MA-150002 for the use of Callisto Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1131; a.i., mesotrione) to allow spot treatment application for weed control in Massachusetts cranberry production.

MDAR staff presented a request to renew the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need (SLN) Registration MA-15002 for Callisto Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1131; active ingredient mesotrione). The SLN, originally issued in 2015, authorizes spot treatment applications for weed control in Massachusetts cranberry production and includes provisions for reduced rates of adjuvant for chemigation of this herbicide on cranberry bogs. Staff explained that the special local need continues to exist, as documented in the renewal application and supported by a letter from the cranberry industry. The proposed renewal updates the expiration date to December 31, 2030, with no other substantive changes to the SLN label.

During discussion, the Subcommittee clarified that this SLN renewal is separate from the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) considered earlier in the meeting. The EUP is intended to generate data to support a potential future SLN request for UAV application of Callisto Herbicide, whereas the current renewal pertains only to the existing spot-treatment SLN that has been in place since 2015.

Following discussion, the Subcommittee voted to approve the motion to renew the Special Local Need Registration MA-15002 through December 31, 2030.

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee hereby approves the renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration SLN No. MA-150002 for the use of Callisto Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 100-1131); a.i., mesotrione) to allow spot treatment application for weed control in Massachusetts cranberry production.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: See above.

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

F. Special Local Needs (SLN) Renewal Request: The Pesticide Board Subcommittee will consider the request for renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration SLN MA-170003 for the use of Devrinol 2-XT (EPA Reg. No. 70506; a.i., napropamide) to allow split applications for weed control in Massachusetts cranberry production.

MDAR staff presented a summary of the request to renew this SLN registration. Staff explained that the SLN was originally issued in 2005 to allow split applications for weed control in newly established cranberry plantings. The registration was subsequently expanded to include established cranberry beds to improve control of certain warm-season perennial weeds for which the federal label does not allow split applications. Staff noted that the special local need continues to exist, as documented in the renewal application and supported by a letter from the cranberry industry. The proposed renewal updates the expiration date to April 30, 2031, with no other substantive changes to the SLN label.

Subcommittee members were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the renewal. Following discussion, the Subcommittee voted to approve the renewal of Special Local Need Registration MA-17003 through April 30, 2031.

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee hereby approves the renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration SLN MA-170003 for the use of Devrinol 2-XT (EPA Reg. No. 70506; a.i., napropamide) to allow split applications for weed control in Massachusetts cranberry production.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

G. New Active Ingredient

Miller presented information on the new active ingredient (a.i.) **isocycloseram**, which is formulated in Incipio, EPA Reg. No. 100-1712, Opello, EPA Reg. No. 100-1710, Equento 400FS, EPA Reg. No. 100-1708, Vanecto Cockroach Gel Bait, EPA Reg. No. 100-1706, Atexzo/Vykenda, EPA Reg. No. 100-1703, and Vertento/Zivalgo, EPA Reg. No. 100-1711. Isocycloserum is a broad-spectrum insecticide for use on treated seeds, agricultural field crops, indoor/outdoor residential areas, residential/commercial turf, greenhouses, commercial/industrial areas, industrial structures, and agricultural structures.

Isocycloseram is in the isoxazoline chemical class and is an IRAC Group 30 insecticide (GABA-gated chloride channel allosteric modulator). It binds to the GABA receptor and blocks inhibitory neurotransmission, resulting in hyperexcitation and death. The a.i. is formulated as a ready-to-use gel bait and different concentrates in dispersible, suspension, and flowable forms for various crops, ornamentals, and turf.

Handling: Five formulations are considered of sufficiently low toxicity to handlers that no label signal word was required. Opello has the signal word 'Danger' due to acute eye irritation hazard and is classified as a Restricted Use Product (RUP) by EPA, likely due to an inactive ingredient surfactant present in the formulation. Most formulations only require socks, shoes, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for PPE. The seed treatment product, Equento, also requires chemical resistant gloves and Opello requires chemical resistant gloves and protective eyewear. All have a Restricted Entry Interval of 12 hours unless incorporated into soil.

Hazard Statements: The overall toxicity profile is of relatively low toxicity to birds and mammals but high toxicity to invertebrates and fish. These products are for terrestrial use only and all have surface water advisories except for the seed treatment and cockroach bait products. Runoff into surface waters is a

concern, particularly in areas with poorly draining soils and shallow groundwater. Mitigation measures include vegetative buffers and application restrictions if the ground is or might become water-saturated. The label has pollinator protection language that specifies best management practices to reduce risks to pollinators and ground-nesting bees. Non-target organism advisory statements all cite aquatic species risks and, depending on use, either direct applicators to avoid spray drift or, in the case of the seed treatment Equento, prohibit water contamination by equipment wash waters. All contain the chemical hazard statement prohibiting contact with oxidizing agents.

For mandatory runoff mitigation, all applicators need to consult EPA's 'Bulletins Live! Two' online and utilize EPA's mitigation menu website. Product labels, except for Equento and Vanecto, also require spray drift management that includes restricted wind speeds, prohibiting application during temperature inversions, and other measures such as spray drift buffers.

Uses: Most proposed uses of isocycloserum products are agricultural: Incipio is for various vegetables, Opello is for corn, Equento 400FS is a seed treatment for certain cereal, pea, and bean crops, Vykendra is for ornamentals and trees, in Massachusetts Vertento is mainly for bulb vegetables and soybeans, and Zivalgo is for fruit-bearing trees and certain vegetables. Atexzo is labeled for use on turfgrass and there is one cockroach bait product – Vanecto. Allowed application methods are aerial, air blast, ground boom, chemigation, fogger, backpack spray, hand wands, mechanically pressurized handgun, and commercial seed treatment equipment. However, in MA, aerial application of Vertento is only allowed on cotton. Aerial for soybeans is not permitted in MA. The Zivalgo label only permits aerial applications on potatoes. Pre-harvest intervals (PHIs) vary by crop, but generally for vegetables range from 1 to 14 days, with more in the 1- to 3-day range. Tree fruits and soybeans have a 14-day PHI, and for corn grain and stover the interval is 30 days. The proposed maximum single application rate is 0.134 lb ai/acre for ornamentals when applied indoors, and the annual maximum is 0.32 lb ai/acre/year.

Human Health Assessment: Studies submitted to EPA for the human health risk assessment demonstrate that isocycloseram has low acute mammalian toxicity - Toxicity Category IV - via oral, dermal, and inhalation routes. It is also Category IV for primary eye and skin irritation, though it is a dermal sensitizer. No acute dietary end point was observed but the chronic dietary lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) is 7 mg/kg bw/day based on physical effects in male rats. In elimination studies, most body tissues exhibited an elimination profile similar to that of blood, with half-lives between 44 and 60 hours. Isocycloseram is mostly metabolized, with <3.5% of the dose unchanged in excreted material. No neurotoxic effects were observed in the highest dose neurotoxicity studies. Developmental studies in rats and rabbits showed reductions in weight at the highest dose tested (15 mg/kg/day). In the reproduction/developmental toxicity screening study, no systemic parental effects were observed up to 1000 mg/kg/day, but reproductive and offspring effects in the forms of reduced fertility and decreased body weight, respectively, were observed at that limit dose. Isocycloseram is classified as "Not Likely to be Carcinogenic to Humans" and there was no evidence of mutagenicity.

Exposure Risks: The EPA overall dietary assessment found dietary exposures to be below levels of concern. Children ages 1-2 years old are considered the most highly exposed group, with a conservative estimate of exposure reaching 67% of the chronic population adjusted daily dose. No residential handler exposures are expected since all proposed labels require baseline PPE and therefore no quantitative residential handler assessment was conducted. Residential areas might be treated and EPA notes there is potential for short-term post-application dermal exposures to adults and children. Short-term incidental oral exposures to children ages 1 to 2 years could also result from turf or indoor application.

Ecological Assessment: Isocycloserum exhibits low acute toxicity to mammals and birds. A chronic study on mallards indicated slight toxicity (No Observed Adverse Effect Level = 101 mg/kg bw). It has some emergence effects on dicots but little observed impact on vegetative vigor. Honey bee studies show isocycloserum is highly toxic to terrestrial invertebrates both via acute and chronic exposure.

All aquatic organisms are considered very sensitive to this a.i. – it is classified as highly toxic to fish and very highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Off-site transport is projected to be the primary route of exposure for aquatic species. Product labels seek to mitigate these ecological risks by minimizing spray drift and limiting runoff that can move into surface waters.

Endangered Species Act: EPA has conducted a review of potential impacts to listed species and designated critical habitats from the proposed uses of isocycloseram products to date. Seven species are considered to be jeopardized even with label mitigations and PULAs have been established to further mitigate risks to these. In Massachusetts there is one PULA for isocycloseram (see ‘Bulletins Live! Two’ for location and specific use restrictions).

Fate: Isocycloseram is persistent in aerobic soil (DT50 = 56 - 293 days), with aerobic metabolism being the most likely degradation pathway. It is moderately soluble in water and is not likely to volatilize. Studies on fish showed little bioaccumulation. Isocycloseram is not systemic in plants and is not expected to be translocated to pollen or nectar. EPA considers 6 of 24 identified degradation products to be residues of concern (ROCs). These can have greater soil persistence and slower degradation in water than the parent molecule. The ecological risk assessment also modeled ROC potential exposure and adverse effects to non-target organisms.

Groundwater Protection: Isocycloseram does not meet the criteria for being classified as a potential groundwater contaminant in Massachusetts.

Moore asked whether presentation of multiple products containing the same new active ingredient in a single meeting reflected a backlog or represented a new practice. Miller explained that this is an active ingredient-specific circumstance rather than a backlog. It also allows the Subcommittee to consider the extent of use patterns for the active ingredient comprehensively, rather than evaluating products with specific use patterns individually over time. Staff noted that the timing of product submissions ultimately depends on the registrants' decisions regarding product rollout.

Motion: that the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approves the product registrations for:

- Incipio, EPA Reg. No. 100-1712,
- Opello, EPA Reg. No. 100-1710,
- Equento 400FS, EPA Reg. No. 100-1708,
- Vanecto Cockroach Gel Bait, EPA Reg. No. 100-1706,
- Atexzo/Vykenda, EPA Reg. No. 100-1703, and
- Vertento/Zivalgo, EPA Reg. No. 100-1711

containing the new active ingredient isocycloseram, which has never before been registered in Massachusetts.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: See above

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

H. **Glyphosate Individual Review Timeline:** Discussion on when the Subcommittee should begin discussion about the classification of Glyphosate through the individual review.

LaScola informed the Subcommittee that review of glyphosate is anticipated to begin at the July 2026 meeting. LaScola explained that the July meeting will initiate the Subcommittee's discussion and

deliberation of the available scientific information and supporting materials. Members were advised that the meeting agenda would indicate that a vote may occur if appropriate; however, the review is expected to proceed over as many meetings as necessary to allow adequate discussion and consideration. LaScola noted that the review materials previously distributed to the Subcommittee are complete and offered to redistribute the information for members' convenience prior to the July meeting.

Berman asked if the review of rodenticides is ready to be discussed by the July meeting. LaScola indicated that those materials are not expected to be ready for the July meeting. Given that these individual review topics involve considerable information and are expected to take substantial time and discussion, the plan is to first start with the glyphosate review. Once the compilation of information for the rodenticide review is finalized, it will be shared with the Subcommittee and a discussion of the timeline for that review will be ready to be discussed by the July meeting.

Berman asked whether the individual review of rodenticides would be ready for discussion at the July meeting. LaScola indicated that the supporting materials are not expected to be ready by that time. Given the scope and complexity of the individual review topics, LaScola explained that the Subcommittee will begin with the glyphosate review. Once the compilation of information for the rodenticide review is complete, the materials will be distributed to the Subcommittee, and discussion of the review timeline will be placed on a future meeting agenda.

I. New Business

No new business was brought before the Subcommittee.

J. ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn April 21, 2026, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: M. Moore

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, T. LaScola, M. Moore, E. Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None