



**Tribal Pesticide Program Council**

**Winter 2024-2025**

## **TPPC 2025 Annual Priorities Issue**

### **Welcome!**

To kick off the new year the Tribal Pesticide Program Council presents its 2025 priorities. The TPPC membership were polled about the issues that are most important to them, and chose to highlight the five priorities below as the primary concerns the group would like to work on in collaboration with EPA and other federal agencies (as appropriate) this year.

### **Increase Funding for EPA's Pesticide Programs**

A lack of sufficient funding has long held Tribes back from being able to manage pesticide use on their lands to protect their people and environment from harm due to misuse or overuse of pesticides. While states and Tribes are both eligible to receive funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate pesticides, states have several other revenue streams at their disposal to fund their pesticide programs that are generally not available to Tribes. Thus EPA funding is critical to assist Tribes in pesticide regulation, and that funding has been more or less flat for many years despite rising costs



of hiring staff and running a pesticide program. The TPPC would like to see more funds allocated to support cooperative agreements with Tribes so that more Tribes can be empowered to regulate pesticide use on their own lands. Additionally, there is a need to better understand the extent of pesticide contamination in Tribes' water resources – including both drinking water and surface water. Laboratory costs for the analysis of water samples are prohibitively expensive for many Tribes, resulting in a data gap that impedes tribal governments' ability to understand and address what their communities are being exposed to. The TPPC requests additional funding from EPA and/or other federal agencies to support their ability to test the water resources on their lands.

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**OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:** [tppcwebsite.org](http://tppcwebsite.org)

## TPPC 2025 Priorities (continued)

### Enforcement & Compliance Assistance

Under the requirements of FIFRA, enforcement of pesticide use violations in Indian Country is primarily the responsibility of the EPA. Tribes may enter into enforcement cooperative agreements with the agency that empower them to take the initial enforcement and compliance steps of conducting inspections and collecting samples if a violation is suspected, then submitting reports to



EPA for further enforcement action. Unfortunately TPPC member Tribes have found that the agency doesn't pursue every case, instead focusing primarily on high-level cases and/or those that have attracted media attention. The TPPC would like to see the agency find the resources to pursue all valid enforcement cases, since even smaller incidents are still violations of federal pesticide law, and appropriate enforcement can help deter future violations. Additionally, each Tribe with an enforcement cooperative agreement is required to produce a

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Enforceable Case Evidence Gathering that details the protocols & procedures for their enforcement and compliance activities. Unfortunately there are not a lot of resources available to assist tribal staff in understanding what to expect in enforcement situations so that they can prepare their QAPPs to the satisfaction of agency reviewers. The TPPC requests that a presentation and/or template be provided to explain the process, which would enable Tribes to produce better QAPPs and eliminate the inefficiency of repeated back-and-forth reviews and revisions by EPA and tribal staff.

### Children's Health

Studies have consistently shown that children exposed to pesticides (even at very low levels) may experience increased rates of multiple health and developmental problems including ADHD, autism, low IQ, childhood cancers, asthma, diabetes, and obesity\*. Of particular importance are the numerous widely used pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties, since impacts to hormonal systems in developing children can have widespread, lifelong impacts on the affected individuals. And while these effects tend to be most pronounced in children of farmworkers or others who live or attend school in close proximity to agricultural operations, a variety of factors including the persistence and spread of pesticides in the environment as well as the prevalence of pesticide use in and around schools mean that children across the country are exposed to and being affected by these chemicals. The TPPC would like to see more emphasis placed on children's health and reducing pesticide exposure routes to minimize impacts. This could include revitalizing and fully supporting EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, and encouraging the use of integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce or even completely eliminate the amount of pesticides used in and around schools.

### Education & Training

The EPA and other federal agencies, along with a series of organizations funded by EPA cooperative agreements, produce numerous educational, outreach, and training materials on



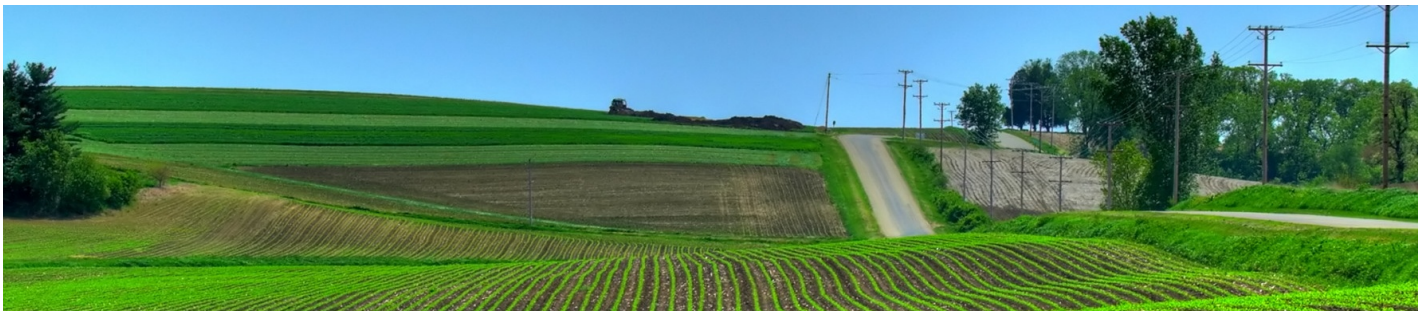
## TPPC 2025 Priorities (continued)

pesticide use and safety. In most cases these materials do not adequately address Tribes or tribal populations, despite the fact that the regulatory, legal, and cultural environment on tribal lands can differ in many important ways from that of non-tribal lands. In response to suggestions from the TPPC and others, EPA recently began revising its training materials for the certification of private applicators of restricted use pesticides within Indian Country to incorporate more tribal-specific examples and situations, and better inform applicators of the different rules and requirements they face when operating on tribal land. The TPPC would like to see other education and outreach materials revised in a similar fashion, including enforcement and worker protection safety (WPS) documents, the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual, and materials produced by the Pesticide Safety Education Programs.

### **Incorporate Tribal Exposure Data into EPA Risk Assessments**

When making decisions on whether to register a new pesticide for use in agricultural or non-agricultural situations in the United States, or renewing the registration of existing pesticides, EPA produces a Risk Assessment for the product to evaluate its potential impact on human and environmental health. These Risk Assessments model possible exposure pathways based on a series of assumptions about the average American's diet and lifestyle. Since tribal lifeways often differ significantly from those of non-tribal citizens, EPA Risk Assessments created under these assumptions may not adequately represent the potential exposure of tribal members, and registration decisions based on these Risk Assessments may subject tribal members to unforeseen risks from the pesticide product. In acknowledgment of this problem, EPA recently initiated a pilot project with the White Earth Nation (a TPPC member Tribe) to collect data on tribal food consumption and other potential exposure pathways so that future Risk Assessments can better incorporate the potential impacts of pesticides on tribal populations. The TPPC would like to see EPA continue its commitment to this pilot project, and to provide sufficient funding for the data collection required to adequately assess tribal exposure pathways. Additionally, the TPPC requests that EPA replicate the project with Tribes in different geographical and cultural regions around the country, since with 574 federally recognized Tribes in the US diets and lifeways can vary significantly from Tribe to Tribe.

\* Pesticide Action Network North America, 2012. *A Generation in Jeopardy: How pesticides are undermining our children's health & intelligence.* (<https://www.panna.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/KidsHealthReportOct2012.pdf>)



### Vacant Executive Committee Representative Positions

The Executive Committee consists of TPPC Members elected by their peers to represent their regions on the Council. When fully staffed the Executive Committee includes the Chair and Vice-

Chair, representatives from each of the ten EPA regions as well as one from Alaska, and four At-Large positions. Executive Committee members are responsible for ensuring that their region's tribes are represented at TPPC meetings in order to determine and raise issues of importance to these tribes, and relay information back to them. Executive Committee members are encouraged to communicate with their Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOCs) and EPA Regional Offices prior to TPPC meetings in order to identify pesticide program needs and issues.

The TPPC is currently seeking regional representatives to fill several vacancies on the Executive Committee and represent their Tribes' and/or Tribal Organizations interests' related to pesticides and environmental concerns. Representatives must be nominated by a TPPC member from their region or may nominate themselves, and the representative must have an authorization letter on file. If you are interested in representing your region or have questions about participating in the Executive Committee, please contact TPPC Coordinator Mark Daniels at [mark.daniels@nau.edu](mailto:mark.daniels@nau.edu) or (928) 523-8897. Current vacancies include: **Region 1, Region 3, Region 4, Region 7, Region 8, and Alaska.**

## Updates and Announcements

### Congratulations to TPPC's EPA Project Officer Linsey Walsh!

The TPPC's EPA Project Officer Linsey Walsh is on maternity leave after welcoming her son Arlo into the world on October 25, 2024. Mom and baby are doing well, and enjoying some time at home getting to know each other. In the meantime EPA's Lauren Achstatter has stepped in to serve as the TPPC Project Officer.



### Congratulations and Thank You to TPPC member Jim Mossett On His Retirement!

Longtime TPPC member Jim Mossett, of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, announced his retirement in November of 2024. The TPPC extends its heartfelt thanks Jim for his many years of service to his Tribe and the Council, and wishes him all the best in the next phase of his life.

## Updates and Announcements (*continued*)

### Conferences and Meetings:

#### AAPCO Spring Meeting

The AAPCO Spring 2025 meeting will be held **March 2-5** at EPA Headquarters in Alexandria, VA. To learn more click [here](#).

#### TPPC Spring Meeting

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council Spring 2025 meeting will be held **March 5-7** at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. More details will be provided as additional plans are confirmed.

### Trainings and Courses:

#### Basic Structural PIRT

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) will provide a training on Basic Structural Pesticide Inspection and Investigation on **February 3-6** in Decatur, GA. To learn more click [here](#).

#### Comprehensive Combo PREP

The Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) will provide a comprehensive training on **April 14-17** in Fort Collins, CO. Participants must be nominated by **February 6, 5pm Mountain Time**. To learn more click [here](#).

#### Worker Protection PIRT

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) will provide a training with a focus on worker protection on **May 12-15** in Grand Rapids, MI. To learn more click [here](#).

#### PREP Senior Executive Program Management Training

The Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) will provide a training with a focus on leadership on **June 24-26** in Fort Collins, CO. To learn more click [here](#).

#### Tribal PIRT

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) will provide a training for Tribal Residential Pesticide Inspection on **July 21-24** in Polson, MT. To learn more click [here](#).

### Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities:

#### Proposed Update to Questions and Answers on the Tribal Enforcement Process (ends **March 3**)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is initiating consultation with federally recognized Tribes on a proposed update to the Office of Civil Enforcement's 2007 Questions and Answers on the Tribal Enforcement Process ("Questions and Answers"). For information contact Matt Castelli at [castelli.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:castelli.matthew@epa.gov).

## TPPC Executive Committee Members

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(Vacant)  
At-Large Representative

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The TPPC is a member-based organization with more than 100 members from 62 Tribes and tribal organizations as of January 2024, whose activities are funded by a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The Council serves as a tribal technical resource, and provides a forum for dialogue between Tribes and the EPA on program and policy development relating to pesticides issues and concerns. Assistance provided to Tribes includes support in building tribal pesticide programs and conducting pesticide education and training, and the preparation of resources for Tribes interested in specialized issues such as Integrated Pest Management and pollinators. Through its interaction with the EPA, the TPPC keeps Tribes informed of developments in the regulation of pesticides and pesticide use, and provides feedback to the EPA on such matters from a tribal perspective (though it is important to note that communication between the EPA and the TPPC does not substitute for direct government-to-government consultation).

For information about how to join the TPPC, contact Mark Daniels at [mark.daniels@nau.edu](mailto:mark.daniels@nau.edu) or (928) 523-8897.

