

Ag Issues Forum Call
Thursday, January 28, 2021
2:30-4:00 p.m. ET

Call-in number: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

I. Introduction/Kick Off: Sara Ayres, Director, Ag Center Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (5 minutes)

II. Current Issues/Updates

A. Update from the Office of the Ag Advisor – (10 mins) – Rebecca Perrin, Acting Special Assistant for Agriculture Policy, Designated Federal Officer, Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC);

B. Overview of newest AgSTAR Resource – AgSTAR Operator Guidebook – (10 mins) – Vanessa McKinney, AgSTAR

AgSTAR's Anaerobic Digester/Biogas System Operator Guidebook is a comprehensive technical resource that offers best practice guidance related to the operation and maintenance (O&M) of anaerobic digestion (AD)/ biogas systems. Vanessa McKinney will give us a brief of the guidebook and an update from recent webinars and other outreach activities to operators.

For more information on the AgSTAR Operator Guidebook see: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/agstar/anaerobic-digesterbiogas-system-operator-guidebook"](https://www.epa.gov/agstar/anaerobic-digesterbiogas-system-operator-guidebook)]

C. Updates from Certification and Worker Protection Branch (CWPB) – (10 mins) – Matt Lloyd, CWPB

Two updates of interest to the Ag Issues Forum group. First, on the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Revision of the Application Exclusion Zone Requirements. Second, on the GAO report for Congress regarding the WPS designated representative provision (Jan 15).

For more information on the GAO report, go to: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-63"](https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-63)]

D. Discussion of PFAS Contamination of Pesticide Containers – (20 mins) – Ed Messina, Kimberly Nesci, and Michael Goodis, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are leaching into the pesticide product. Ed Messina will be providing an update on this emerging issue.

For more information see the news release here: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-investigate-pfas-contamination"](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-investigate-pfas-contamination)]

III. Updates - (15 mins or as time allows):

- **USDA Update**
- **USGS Update**
- **EPA Updates**
 - **Regions**
 - **HQ**

IV. Misc. Updates/Meetings - (5 mins.):

1) Reminder: The next Ag Issues Forum Conference call is scheduled for **Thursday, February 25, 2020**. The **call is from 2:30 - 4pm Eastern Time**; **Call-in number and access code:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **conference code**

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2) Agenda topics: Please send suggestions for agenda topics to Sara Ayres: 312-353-6266, [**HYPERLINK** "mailto:ayres.sara@epa.gov"]

3) Others?