California:
“Minor” Crops Are Major Business

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Global Minor Use Summit
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#1 Agricultural Economy in the U.S.

- Governor Schwarzenegger’s international focus
- Concerned about global warming, other environmental problems
- His environmental focus has attracted a *large* following…
… a LARGE following…
California: “Specialty” Crop State

• Nothing “minor” about these crops
• About half of U.S. production
• 400 commodities, mostly dairy, fruit, flowers, vegetables and nuts
• Bulk of California’s $350 billion agriculture-related economy
TOP TEN CALIFORNIA COMMODITY EXPORTS 2005
Millions of Dollars

- Almonds: $1,841
- Cotton: $699
- Wine: $575
- Dairy & Products: $540
- Table Grapes: $365
- Oranges & Products: $320
- Rice: $319
- Walnuts: $300
- Pistachios: $263
- Tomatoes, process.: $204
California Almonds in a Nutshell

• 100% of U.S. production
  – 65% goes to export
• 80% of worldwide production
• California’s #1 ag export
Top 10 Almond Export Markets

Source: Almond Board of California, Fiscal Year 06/07
In past decade, stronger efforts by DPR & U.S. EPA to collaborate and cooperate:
- Exchanging information and data reviews
- Maximizing scarce resources and emphasizing areas of focus and expertise
Three Aspects to Workshare Tolerance

- ✔ Tolerance review for minor crops
- ✔ Joint data review
- ✔ Concurrent review
Workshare: “Minor” Crop Tolerances

- Three partners: DPR, IR-4, & U.S. EPA
- Cooperative effort for about eight years
- Results: Speeded EPA registration on about 50 California commodities worth $9.2+ billion
• DPR work helps U.S. EPA set tolerances and cuts time needed for registrations
  – DPR doing residue chemistry reviews for selected IR-4 petitions
  – We are continuing IR-4 work, now doing dietary risk evaluations, too
Workshare: Joint Data Review

- U.S. EPA looking for ways to collaborate, bring reduced-risk products to market
- We’ve done two joint data reviews, look for future opportunities
  - Example: Reviewed “dads” (diallyl sulfides), a natural extract, as alternative to fumigating thousands of acres of garlic white rot
  - DPR now funding garlic industry field trials
Special Registrations for Specialty Crops

- Limited pest management options
- Chemical industry economics, “minor” crops
  - Reluctance to invest in a “one-state” crop
- The solution: Section 18s (FIFRA)
In case of emergency....Section 18

- Exotic pest outbreak
- Other unexpected situations
- Threat of major crop, economic losses
- Temporary use of pesticide not registered for crop
How Section 18 Works

- Commodity groups FIRST confer with trade partner, if export crop
- DPR then evaluates commodity group request
  - Must fit criteria for Section 18 under FIFRA
  - DPR, EPA must agree to exemption
Major Regulatory Trends and Issues

- **Air**
  - Reducing pesticide emissions to fight smog

- **Water**
  - Preventing runoff into waterways

- **Enforcement**
  - Stronger compliance in the field

- **Incentives**
  - Working with industry to promote safer pest management
Trends: Air Quality & Pesticides

• A national precedent:
  – New California regulations effective Jan. 1, 2008

• Reducing pesticide emissions to fight smog
  – Cut VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions 20%
  – Focus on agricultural fumigants...major pesticide in specialty crops
  – Working with industry to minimize disruption
Trends: Two Challenges for Water Quality

• Challenge #1…Prevent farm runoff
  – Using buffer zones with grass, native vegetation
  – Using “soft” chemicals during the winter rainy season
Clean Water Issue #2…Pyrethroids

• Another unprecedented regulatory effort, first in U.S.

• Farm AND urban stream runoff…aquatic harm confirmed
  – Would prefer to keep this “softer” chemical available … must identify source of problem
  – Data call-in from registrants … more than 500 farm, urban products
Protecting Our Integrity

- Ensure consumer confidence in food safety
- Provide fair competition for law-abiding farmers
  - Law-breakers hurt everyone’s reputation
  - DPR “zero tolerance” policy for misuse that hurts people or environment
“Softer” Side of Compliance

• Seek more cooperation, less conflict
• Work with industry on least-toxic methods
• DPR Alliance Grants Program
  – Strong support from Gov. Schwarzenegger to promote IPM, help our agricultural economy AND improve environment
The California Look of Success
Need more information?

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