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The Nebraska Corn Growers Association and its 2,100 members would like to offer comments regarding atrazine to the Scientific Advisory Panel scheduled to meet on November 3, 2009. Our organization has concerns in regards to the recent announcement made by the Agency to begin the re-evaluation of atrazine on all issues that have been studied the past 15 years. NeCGA questions the motive of this action after a long science based transparent process that all stakeholders have engaged in.

EPA estimates that atrazine saves America's corn farmers \$28 per acre in crop protection cost and yield advantages. Corn farmers operate on thin margins and are very conscientious about input decisions. atrazine is a cost-effective tool that is primarily used at lower than labeled rates in Nebraska crop production along with other products to enhance the overall performance.

Nebraska farmers have a long history of utilizing atrazine as a safe and effective crop protection product. atrazine is an important tool in no-till farming practices that have resulted in reduced soil erosion and increased water conservation. USDA data shows that atrazine was used on approximately 70 percent of conservation tillage systems in the U.S. in 2004. Conservation tillage practices have now become the preferred practice in most of the state of Nebraska. The implementation of conservation tillage practices is responsible for extended environmental benefits in the form of increased carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat. The reduction of fuel use and equipment costs also contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint in corn production. Farmers need and depend on atrazine to allow them to use these practices by providing safe, dependable and efficient weed control.

The recent re-registration of Atrazine in 2006 after years of work and 6,000 studies that support the safety and continued use of the product should have resolved any questions from a scientific perspective. Over the past decade the NeCGA has been involved in countless issues surrounding atrazine. We have witnessed the claims of problems, which were addressed using credible science and common sense. NeCGA has been and continues to be, supportive of looking and examining any new credible science in all crop protection products. We realize the Agency has a role and a duty to address health issues and urge that sound science be the driving factor on any decision regarding this important product that allows Nebraska farmers to continue to supply the world's food and fuel needs.

Regards,



Brandon Hunnicutt  
President  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association