

EPA FINAL HERBICIDE STRATEGY



ISSUE:

In 1972, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was established under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FIFRA requires the EPA to maintain compliance standards with the registration, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in the United States.

To meet their legal obligations under FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the EPA published the Final Herbicide ("Strategy"). This Strategy is the first of its kind to minimize the ecological impacts of herbicides on federally endangered (listed) and threatened species and their habitats from potential pesticide exposure.

IMPACT:

Herbicide labels may now be amended to include standard mitigation practices, which are awarded through a point system, to apply herbicides. Labels may now also indicate the need to refer to Bulletins Live! Two (BLT), if further mitigations, beyond the standard ones, are required. The additional mitigations are provided via a "mitigation menu" and will be required in varying capacities if your field is within a "Pesticide Use Limitation Area" (PULA). The Strategy also qualifies counties into 4 categories based on their vulnerability to run-off: very low (credited 6 points), low (credited 3 points), medium (credited 2 points), and high (credited 0 points).

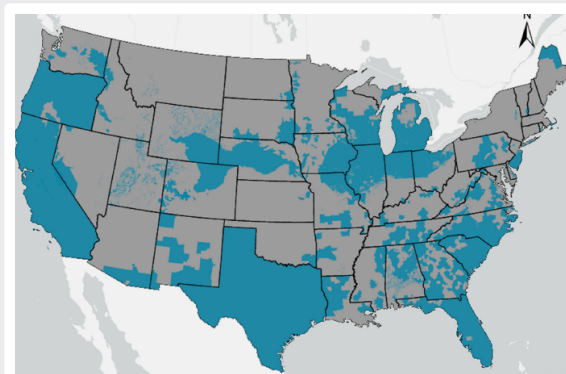
ACTION:

FFBF is encouraging producers to familiarize themselves with the BLT website, as its utilization will become standard practice. As producers may make their growing plans up to a year in advance, the EPA has stated the virtual label requirements will be valid for up to six-months, regardless of if regulations have changed, if the producer has record of it.



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SCOPE OF IMPACT



Blue areas represent the maximum ranges of endangered and threatened (listed) species and their critical habitats. These range maps are the Pesticide Use Limitation Areas.

Photo sourced from the EPA.

FFBF POLICY:

“ We support the right of individual producers to use chemicals and pharmaceuticals in accordance with label restrictions. If the user has followed label directions, he or she shall not be held liable for damages.

We oppose exclusive use of web-based pesticide labeling. ”

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Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is the state's largest general agriculture membership organization, with 132,000 member-families. Florida Farm Bureau's Agricultural Policy Department facilitates the policy development process initiated by its active membership and ratified annually by the organization's voting delegates. FFB National Affairs works to advance policies through Florida's congressional delegation and federal regulatory agencies.

