

What Others Are Doing

RISE is just one of many associations and industry groups taking action. Here are what others are doing:



DELANEY

Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA)

"We've made FQPA our main legislative effort," says Tom Delaney, PLCAA executive vice president.

During its annual "Day on the Hill," 70 lawn care operators from 18 states met with key congressional committee members in Washington, D.C., to urge action on FQPA.

PLCAA also encourages members to get involved in their own community, not just with FQPA, but other pesticide issues as well.

"There's only so much the association can do. Then it's up to our members," says Delaney. "Involvement in issues is a must for lawn care managers who want to stay in business long-term," he adds.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

This summer, GCSAA launched an associationwide grassroots campaign with a mailing to all 101 chapters complete with follow-up phone calls. Articles were placed on the GCSAA Web site and in the association's Greens & Grassroots newsletters. Chapters and individuals that contribute to the FQPA effort are recognized.

"At least 60 of the 101 chapters have taken action, and those are just the ones we know about," says Carrie Riordan, GCSAA's government relations manager. In the Florida Chapter alone, 150 members have written letters to Congress.

Superintendents are also participating in editorial board meetings arranged to discuss FQPA implications with media in cities throughout the United States.

Novartis Crop Protection Co.

With an employee dedicated to managing FQPA, Novartis, like many pesticide manufacturers that sell organophosphates, is busy pulling data together and developing new risk-assessment methods.

Tom Beidler has been the FQPA issues manager for the company for 1½ years.

"Novartis is working toward a goal of providing the tools necessary for conducting scientifically sound risk assessments," he adds. The risk assessment for Novartis' pesticide diazinon is scheduled for preliminary review by the EPA this year.

A few of the studies and assessments the company is involved with include the Organophosphate Market Basket Survey, which involves sampling the U.S. food supply to determine OP residues; the OP Case Study, which has as its primary objective the development of a cumulative risk assessment for five pesticides; and CARES (Cumulative/Aggregate Risk Evaluation System), a software program development project spearheaded by Novartis that will evaluate and quantify exposures to pesticides by all possible dietary and non-dietary routes.