

Status of Propionic Acid and Custom Hay Baling
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Last year at this time, EPA made a ruling to register certain applications of propionic acid as a pesticidal application. One such application is using propionic acid during hay baling. Thus, custom hay balers using prop would need to be certified and licensed as commercial applicators.

Well, EPA has not gotten around to registering the new labels as quickly as they initially thought. Thus, as of right now, there doesn't appear to be any propionic acid product with the new label which contains an EPA Registration Number. Dave Fredrickson, WDATCP Compliance Section, indicated that we may see several products with the new label by June/July of 2002. Propionic acid already on shelves and in the pipeline that does not contain an EPA Registration Number would not require custom hay balers to be certified and licensed.

So, here we are, one year later and we're asking the same question: should a custom hay baler get certified? The response is probably "yes" if you're in the custom baling business for the long haul. It is expected that propionic acid will appear with the EPA Registration label sooner or later. Therefore, it is in the custom baler's best interest to get certified because if a baling job is lined up and the replacement product has the new label, the baler legally cannot make that application.

Below is a dusted-off information from 2001 regarding propionic acid and what it means to dealers and applicators.

- 1) If propionic acid is labeled for use to have pesticidal activity, then manufacturers and labelers must register their product with EPA.
- 2) Propionic acid is not a restricted-use pesticide.
- 3) Individuals custom applying propionic acid that does not have a EPA Registration label may use the product as they always have.
- 4) Individuals custom applying the acid with a pesticide label and EPA Registration Number must be certified and licensed as a commercial applicator.
- 5) Farmers applying the acid for their own use do not need to be certified.
- 6) Farmers may custom apply (get paid for it) the acid for up to 3 different producers or up to 500 acres in any calendar year without being certified.
- 7) Farmers who custom apply propionic acid and exceed 3 different producers or 500 acres in any calendar year must get certified and licensed as a commercial applicator when the product contains an EPA Registration Number.
- 8) Applications of acid for feed uses only (such as in TMRs) are not affected.

In summary, if you are a custom hay baler, plan ahead. At the point propionic acid receives the EPA Registration Number, commercial certification will be required for custom operators.