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International MRL Database for U.S. Specialty Crop Exports

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CLA REWG (Residue Expert Work Group)

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- Philip Brindle (Chair) - BASF
- Martin Cole - Bayer
- Carmen Tiu - Dow
- Richard Guinivan - DuPont
- Audrey Chen - FMC
- Stephen Wratten - Monsanto
- Paul Francis - Syngenta
- Daniel Kunkel - IR-4

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CLA MRL Database

- CLA initiated in 2001. FAS supported in 2002.
- Phases 1 & 2 - Building database (countries with at least \$1 M export market for fruits, veg. & nuts). EPA has 10,000 MRLs and Codex has 2,000 MRLs.
- Phase 3 - Download query results into Excel
- Next Phase - Add MRLs on other crops/pesticides. MRL Harmonization.

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Presentation Agenda

- Background on Database
- Description of Database
- Demonstration
- Adaptability of Database (Japan example)
- Usage Patterns
- International Importance
- Next Steps

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Background on Database

Organizations Involved:

Sponsor and Oversight:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Horticultural & Tropical Products Division

Operated and Maintained by:

- CropLife America
- Bryant Christie Inc.

Funding:

- USDA's Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops

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Background on Database (con't.)

- **MRL Database Goals**
 - To be the best source of accurate global MRL information in the world
 - To provide a management tool for U.S. specialty crops growers to evaluate pesticide residue requirements in leading export markets
 - To ensure continued foreign markets access for U.S. specialty crops through early intervention before technical trade barriers occur

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Description of Database

- US Specialty Crops, i.e. vegetables, fruits and nuts
- 79 “countries” representing at least \$1 million in annual specialty crop exports
- Contains MRLs for pesticides and commodity combinations registered in U.S.
- 291 pesticides & 350 commodities

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Descriptions of Database (con't.)

Functions of Database

- MRLs by commodity
- MRLs by crop grouping
- MRLs by pesticide
- MRLs by pesticide type MRLs by pesticide

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MRL Database Opening Page

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International MRL Database for US Specialty Crops

Return to the FAS Home Page [MRLs by MRL Name Date](#)

Welcome to the International Maximum Residue Limit Database

Terms of Use

Users are reminded that international regulations and MRLs frequently change and may result in outdated information in this database. Although the database will be updated periodically, the user accepts that the information herein is only intended to be an initial reference and further understands that there is no assurance that the reference material is error free. The developers of the International MRL Database for US Specialty Crops are not liable for any damages, in whole or in part, caused by or arising in any way from User's use of the database. It is important that information obtained from this database be verified with knowledgeable parties in the country of interest prior to sale or shipment of exports.

I Accept

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Demonstration

- On Line Demonstration

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Adaptability of Database

- Japan MRL Example
 - Reviewed the Japanese Provisional MRLs for 714 Pesticides in Japan
 - Added 1000's of provisional Japan MRLs to the database
 - Allowed US grower groups to easily compare proposed MRLs to U.S. and existing Japan MRLs
 - Allowed U.S. grower groups to accurately respond to Japan's Ministry of Health on proposed revisions to Japan's pesticide regulatory system.
 - On May 29, 2006, placed Japan permanent and provisional MRLs into the database as Japan's MRL list and published updated Japan Country Report reflecting changes to Japanese pesticide system.

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MRL Database Usage Patterns

- Latest figures show that over 100 individuals a day are using the database during the week
- Average usage time: 12 minutes
- Primarily domestic users, but foreign users as well
- 59 individuals or groups have signed up for email notifications

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International Importance

- Need for One Location for Accurate MRL Information
- Provides US MRLs for Comparison
- International Harmonization of MRLs?
- Standardization of Commodity/Crop Grouping Names

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Next Steps

- Widely used in horticultural industry Discussion of including non-hort. products including row crops/veterinary pesticides.
- Possible inclusion of Section 18's in the database.
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