

ATRAZINE

MESSAGE TO EPA: Get the Science Right!

Atrazine is an herbicide that selectively controls broadleaf weeds on up to 65 million acres of corn - nearly 70% of the entire U.S. crop. Approved in 1958, EPA has extensively reviewed atrazine over the decades and across administrations, dating from the Special Review initiation in 1994, to the reregistration of 2000-2003, the cumulative risk assessment of 2006, the re-evaluation of 2009-2012, and the current Registration Review action which started in 2013. Under this most recent registration review process, EPA has issued:

June-August 2013:	Preliminary workplan and responded to public comments
June-October 2016:	Preliminary ecological risk assessment and public comment period *
July-November 2018:	Preliminary human health risk assessment and public comment period

**** Corn growers submitted extensive comments, along with more than 30,000 growers and agricultural experts who strongly defend the need for atrazine. These comments have gone unanswered for almost three years by EPA.***

WHAT MUST BE CHANGED

Flawed Studies Tainting Registration Process

Going against the recommendations of multiple EPA Science Advisory Panels (SAPs) (2007, 2009, 2012) and other independent data reviews, EPA is utilizing a set of scientifically indefensible studies to calculate a preliminary level of concern (LOC) for aquatic plants of 3.4 ppb (parts per billion). This extremely low threshold is based on a handful of flawed studies deemed to have fundamental “weaknesses in their design” by multiple SAPs. Before these studies were added back in against the advice of multiple SAPs, the LOC would calculate to be greater than 20 ppb as a 60-day rolling average.

Failure to correct this preliminary assessment will result in an overly conservative LOC unsubstantiated by the science and may have unintended consequences moving forward.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Ripple Effects in 2020 and Beyond

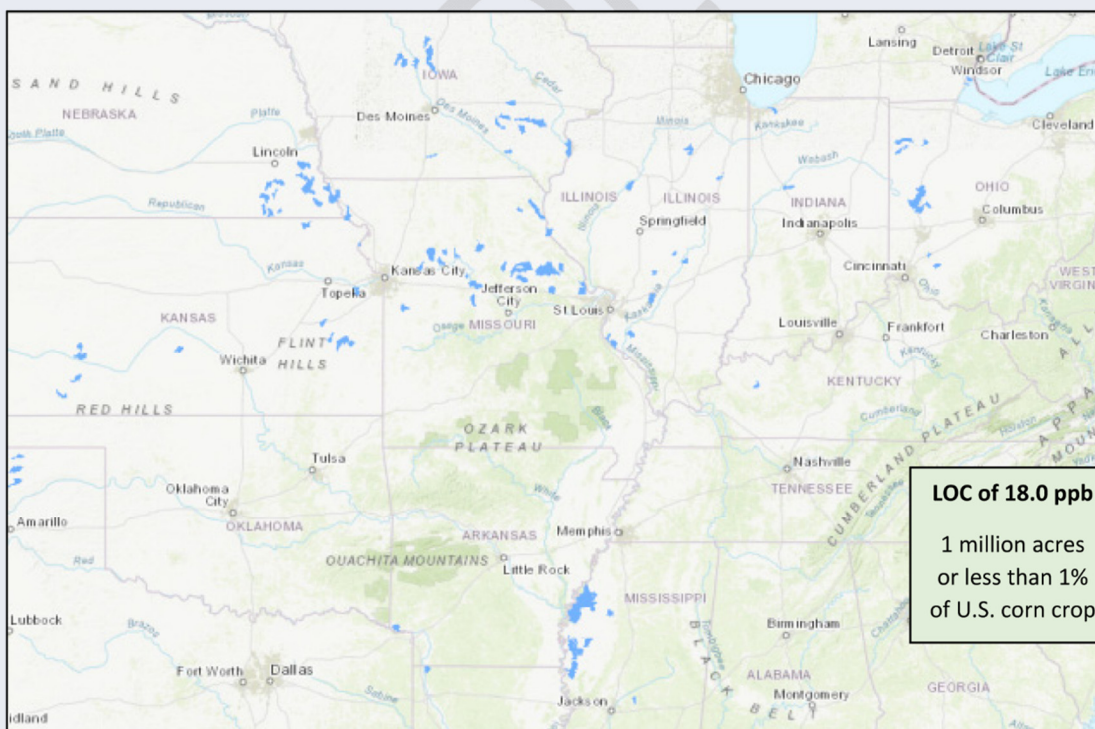
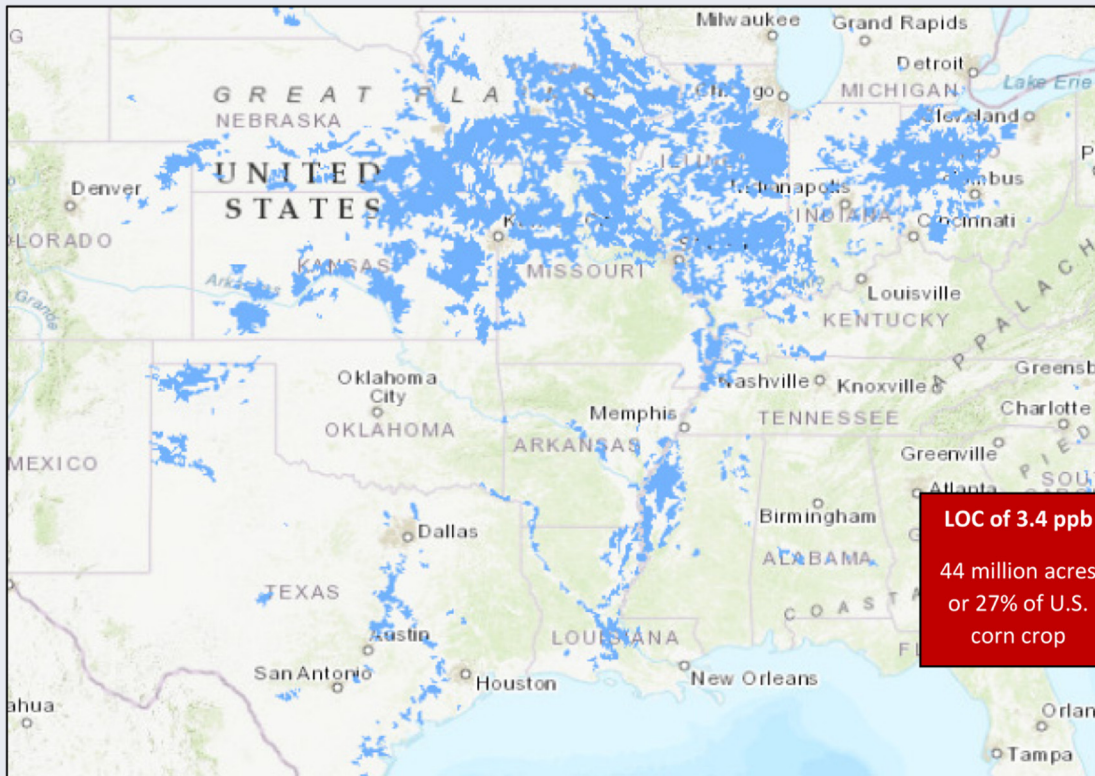
In a court settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity, EPA agreed to complete nationwide effects determinations for atrazine in 2020 as part of the efforts by EPA, Fish and Wildlife Services and National Marine Fisheries Service to build on the scientific approaches for all pesticides under the Endangered Species Act. Corn growers are highly concerned the scientific flaws in the 2016 preliminary ecological risk assessment will undermine the ESA review for atrazine. EPA’s ecological assessment needs to be accurate leading into this Endangered Species Act assessment.

If the flawed research is allowed in the ESA assessment, it could result in a ban of atrazine on over 44 million corn acres across the U.S.

EPA should use verifiable, reputable science in the atrazine registration review. We urge EPA to correct the record and issue a new ecological risk assessment.

What's At Stake?

If the EPA sets the level of concern (LOC) for aquatic life at 3.4 parts per billion (ppb), farmers in the blue watersheds (44 million acres of corn) would lose the ability to utilize atrazine. A conservatively calculated aquatic LOC of 18 ppb (as firmly supported by the science), drops the number of corn acres impacted significantly to approximately 1 million corn acres.



Maps showing modeled estimates of corn acreage using a LOC of 3.4 ppb for 60 days (top) compared to a LOC of 18 ppb for 60 days (bottom).