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IPM AUDIO UPDATES

To catch my IPM Audio Updates recorded weekly, you can sign up at: [Rolling Plains/West Texas IPM Audio Updates](#) or click on the QR code below and receive notifications by text when one has been recorded and then listen to it whenever you wish. This is a very brief update about what I am finding around St. Lawrence both pest and crop wise along with what I expect to see in the near future.



Dicamba Label

EPA has reapproved over-the-top dicamba uses on dicamba-tolerant cotton under a new, time-limited registration that covers the 2026 and 2027 growing seasons, with substantially tighter federal label restrictions than past registrations.

Big picture

Over-the-top dicamba on DT soybeans and cotton is again **Federally legal for 2026–2027** under a new registration decision announced Feb. 5–6, 2026.

This is a Federal label, Texas still has to approve the label before dicamba can be used this season.

EPA characterizes this as a two-season, time-limited approval that will be revisited, not a permanent 15-year registration.

EPA also approved a new low-volatility dicamba product (e.g., **Bayer's Stryax**) for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton beginning with the 2026 season across a defined set of states. [

Key elements of the 2026 federal registration

EPA's 2026 decision emphasizes what it calls the “strongest protections in agency history” for OTT dicamba on cotton. Major points:

Duration: Registration for OTT dicamba on DT cotton is limited to two growing seasons (2026 and 2027).

Use pattern: Labeled only for over-the-top use on dicamba-tolerant cotton; other uses (e.g., preplant burndown on non-DT crops) remain under separate labels/registrations. [epa+1](#)

Rate limits: Total dicamba allowed per acre per year is approximately cut in half compared with prior OTT dicamba labels, reducing cumulative seasonal load. [epa](#)

Restricted Use Pesticide: OTT dicamba remains RUP; only certified applicators can apply, and they must complete annual dicamba-specific training. [epa](#)

PPE and handling: Labels maintain or strengthen PPE requirements for mixers, loaders, and applicators. [epa](#)

Dicamba Label, cont.

New drift/volatility and temperature controls

EPA added several novel application constraints to address off-target movement and endangered species concerns.

Temperature-based acreage caps:

If the forecast high for the day of or the day after application is between 85–95 °F, applicators may only treat up to 50% of their remaining untreated DT soybean/cotton acres in that county on that day; the rest must wait at least two days.

Applications are restricted or prohibited above specified temperature thresholds (details are in product-specific labels, but the intent is to avoid high-volatility conditions).

Endangered species / conservation measures:

Required conservation practices (e.g., vegetative buffers, runoff controls) in designated areas to protect listed species.

County- or area-specific prohibitions may apply where EPA identified unacceptable endangered species risks (final county lists are in label and ESA bulletins).

Spray-drift controls:

Continued or enhanced downwind buffers, restrictions on boom height, nozzle type, and wind speed

Additional volatility-reducing agents or “safety agents” required; EPA indicates these requirements are effectively doubled vs earlier labels

Products and geography

EPA refers broadly to “over-the-top dicamba herbicides” registered for DT cotton and soybeans, with specific low-volatility formulations receiving a new federal registration across about 34 states.

Bayer reports EPA approval of a new low-volatility dicamba registration that allows launch of Stryax herbicide for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton for the 2026 season in those states.

Exact product names, state lists, and county-level exclusions are label- and bulletin-specific and must be checked for each product and location.

Permian Basin Cotton Conference

The Permian Basin Cotton Conference will be held on Thursday, March 26th in Big Spring. CEU's, the Auxin Training, and a meal will be provided. More information will be able as we get closer to the date.

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