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TIMELINE OF THE ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD DICAMBA RULE

August 2017 – Dicamba Task Force recommends April 25 cutoff of use of dicamba

July 2017 – Board adopts emergency rule banning sale and use of dicamba

November 2017 – Board approves rule prohibiting dicamba applications after April 25 to October 31

February 2018 – Effective date of rule for April 25 cutoff date

Spring of 2019 – Board adopts amendment to provide for cutoff date of May 25.

December 2019 – Board approves keeping the May 25 cutoff date, but adds an amendment to rule for late season dicamba application permits for land east of the Mississippi river levee

December 2020 – At regular board meeting, board considers different proposals for extending use of dicamba for 2021 growing season but motions to change the rule fail to receive enough votes.

Early 2021 – Reports surface that pigweed has developed resistance to other forms of herbicides.

March 3, 2021 – Board considers a petition for rulemaking filed by a crop consultant requesting an amendment to adopt the full federal label with no further restrictions. Board votes to initiate rulemaking as requested by the petition.

May 3 – Board votes to

- Adopt cutoff date of June 30
- Reduce buffer zones around non-dicamba crops from one-half mile to one-quarter mile
- Reduce the buffer zone around specialty and organic crops from one mile to one-half mile
- Also adopt the rule as an emergency rule as well as a permanent rule due to
 - Necessity to have the rule in place for this years' growing season
 - Excessive rains that have slowed planting, and an early cutoff date will prohibit the use of dicamba is the May 25 cutoff remains in place
 - Pigweed now showing resistance to other pesticides
 - Arkansas farmers at an economic disadvantage in relation to farmers in other states