

The 47th Annual Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop

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The 47th Annual Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop (FPRW) was held at the Tradewinds Island Grand in St. Pete Beach, FL, from July 18–21, 2010. This meeting is the originator of the “Pesticide Residue Workshop” namesake that inspired similar offshoots in Canada, Europe, and Latin America (and previously in California). FPRW used to focus almost entirely on pesticide residues on foods and in the environment, and although the current name of the workshop still respects its origin, in both geography and subject matter, the meeting has grown over time to become truly international, with contributions not only on the analytical chemistry of pesticides but also on veterinary drugs, mycotoxins, environmental contaminants, and emerging issues. The meeting’s scope has expanded so much that the name will be changed starting with the 50th annual meeting in 2013 to the North American Chemical Residue Workshop, which will better encompass the attendees’ areas of interest. A sampling of topics at the 47th FPRW meeting included dietary supplements, animal feed, honey bees, drinking water, sheep wool, tobacco, and wine.

Until 2008, the meeting was organized by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which at that time handed the reins over to a newly formed nonprofit organization, FLAG Works. The American Chemical Society was contracted by FLAG Works to help with some of the administrative logistics of the meeting, and volunteers remained the heart and soul of the workshop to make plans, coordinate activities, create the technical program, and perform certain logistics. The friendly and informal atmosphere of the meeting is like no other.

The growing relevance and success of the workshop can be measured to some extent by its statistics, including approximately 300 registered attendees, 80 posters (both FPRW records), 30 talks, and 36 vendor booths. Nineteen countries on five continents were represented in the workshop scientific sessions by scientists from industry, government, and academia. First-time events, which were highly successful, included a best-poster contest and the expansion of Wednesday’s technical session to a whole day. A special session organized for Sunday featured Dr. Ed Overton, Professor Emeritus at Louisiana State University, discussing the potential environmental and food safety impact of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. That same day, multiple speakers from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration provided information on their pesticide residue monitoring program and guidance for private laboratories conducting pesticide residue analysis.

Much of the oral program consisted of analytical contributions designed to address many of the challenges faced in the

laboratory by FPRW attendees. Chemists always seek to better analyze more residues, with fewer instruments taking up less space, at lower levels, with greater ease, higher throughput, lower cost, and reduced waste generation. Incredibly, new approaches and techniques reported at FPRW 2010 are meeting those desired goals better than ever (albeit typically using instruments with high capital expense and expertise needs). Mass spectrometry has emerged as the state-of-the-art detection tool for quantitative and qualitative analysis of multiple residues and sample types. Vendors have introduced highly sensitive and selective instruments, and analytical leaders at the meeting presented several variants and options for analyzers (different types of high resolution and/or tandem mass instruments), ionization methods, sample introduction (e.g., ambient desorption, flow injection), analytical separations (ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography, fast or comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography), and quick and easy sample preparation methods. Along these lines, the well-attended mass spectrometry forum is a mainstay of FPRW.

Talks on risk assessment, statistics, pesticide registration issues, global trade impact, sampling, and harvest timing balanced and provided context for analytical efforts. FPRW oral sessions included

- multiclass, multiresidue analysis of contaminants
- veterinary drug residue analysis
- quality assurance and laboratory management
- global chemical contaminant conflicts and resolutions
- why we are analyzing chemical residues
- U.S. government programs and initiatives

The high quality of the technical and informational aspects of the workshop can be gleaned from the conference Website (www.flworkshop.com) in the archives section, but what is difficult to relate in this short introduction of the workshop is the value gained by participants networking with colleagues from all over the world, who simultaneously possess similar yet different backgrounds, interests, and needs.

For the second year in a row, the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* has graciously decided to publish representative contributions from the FPRW in a single issue of *JAFC*. These papers reflect the high quality and diversity of FPRW that we hope will inspire readers to participate in a future workshop.

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