

Beyond Pesticides

2010 Annual Report Summary

On the South Lawn of the White House, a honey bee hive symbolizes both the challenges and the promise of an environmentally sound and healthful future. On a practical level, the bee hive is an integral part of the White House's organic kitchen garden, which has served to both energize the organic movement and enrage the chemical industry. In a policy context, it draws attention to the urgent need for standards that seek to protect ecological balance. This annual report summary highlights Beyond Pesticides' major projects of the past year.

Protecting Pollinators: Honey bees and beyond

The disappearance of honey bees identifies a fundamental and systemic flaw in the approach to the use of toxic chemicals, and highlights the growing public health threat caused by the inaction of our current regulatory approach. Approximately 90 percent of all flowering plants require pollinators to survive. In agriculture, nearly a third of pollination is accomplished by honey bees. We have elevated our role in fighting for pollinator protection. After receiving a copy of an internal EPA memo, we drafted a letter, joined by beekeeping organizations and environmental groups, that calls on the agency to immediately cancel and remove from the market the pesticide clothianidin because the key study on effects to honey bees was determined to be flawed. As the "Clothianidin Controversy" broke, Beyond Pesticides launched a *Pollinators and Pesticides* area on our website, organizing relevant information on pesticide science and regulation.

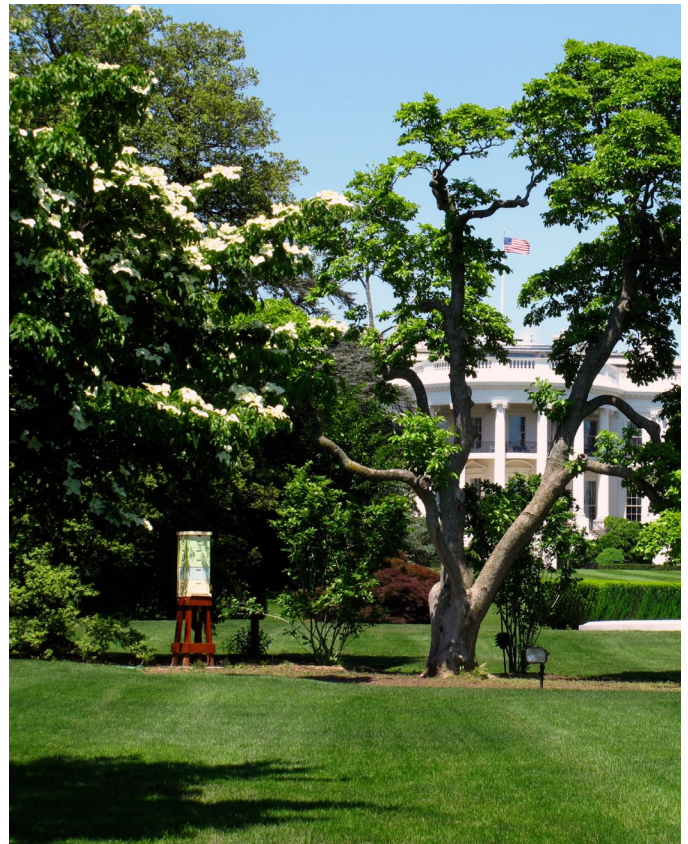
Children's Health: Protecting the most vulnerable

Beyond Pesticides continues to provide support on strategies and methodologies for land and building management that protect the health of children and the environment. We assist local and state efforts to adopt safer practices and policies. Last year's highlight was New York state's *Child Safe Playing Field Act*, which helps to protect children by banning the use of pesticides on school playing fields and playgrounds, marking a huge victory for grassroots environmental and human health groups.

In 2010, we launched the *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database* (PIDD), which indexes primarily epidemiologic studies that link diseases to pesticides. It is a powerful tool in supporting efforts to eliminate the use of hazardous pesticides in favor of green strategies that emphasize non- and least-toxic alternative practices and products. While not exclusive to children's health issues, many childhood diseases and exposure patterns are featured in the project. PIDD includes hundreds of studies on asthma, autism and learning disabilities, birth defects and reproductive dysfunction, diabetes, cancer and more. The studies in the database show that our current approach to restricting pesticide use through risk assessment-based mitigation measures is not protective enough. PIDD makes the case that our current regulatory system is a failed human experiment that must be overhauled. Visit www.beyondpesticides.org/health.

Lawns and Landscapes: Creating healthy outdoor spaces

Each year, people in the U.S. spray over 100 million pounds of toxic pesticides on lawns, gardens, and parks. Healthy attractive turf and landscapes can be achieved using organic methods, yet we continue unnecessarily to poison our environment and expose our families, pets, and wildlife to toxic chemicals. Through consumer education, professional training, and policy, we are working to eliminate pesticide use in landscaping and gardening at home, in parks and other public spaces.



Organic Integrity: For consumers, workers & the environment

Beyond Pesticides believes that organic food is the right choice for personal health, farmworkers, and the environment. To illustrate this point, we launched *Organic Food: Eating with a Conscience*, an online guide that evolves out of the notion that consumer concern about pesticide residues should be expanded to include other impacts of chemical-intensive agriculture. Media attention has focused on purchasing foods referred to as “clean,” but grown with toxic chemicals that show up only in small amounts on food. While this approach is helpful in alerting the public to pesticide residues, consumers may not realize that those very same “clean” foods are conventionally grown with pesticides that get into water, contaminate communities, poison farmworkers, and kill bees and wildlife. Visit www.EatingWithAConscience.org.

Beyond Pesticides executive director Jay Feldman, with a five-year appointment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), attended his first meeting as a board member in 2010. The Board regulates practices and materials allowed in organic production and advises the Secretary of Agriculture. In 2010, our efforts are focused on growing organic integrity with mainstream demand by advancing restrictions in organic on allowable materials and uses, engineered nanoparticles, inert ingredients in organic inputs, the allowance of synthetic residues, among others.



Health Care Facilities: Creating toxic-free places of healing

Because hospital and elder care patients are already vulnerable, it is imperative that they not be exposed to chemicals linked to cancer, nervous and immune system damage, and respiratory illness. Collaborating with Maryland Pesticide Network (MPN), our work is effecting much-needed change in health care facility management in the state of Maryland and serves as a model for the nation. The recent bed bug resurgence has created a challenge for the health care facilities management sector. To educate facilities' staff, Beyond Pesticides produced the brochure, *Bed Bugs: Guidelines for Prevention, Monitoring, and Intervention*, for distribution to facilities currently participating in the pilot project, as well as possible future participants. We believe health care facilities can serve as a catalyst for broader community-wide change and education on practices patients and staff use in their homes.

Greening the Community: Beyond Pesticides' 28th National Pesticide Forum

Greening the Community: Green economy, organic environments and healthy people was held April 8-9, 2010 at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Medical School in Cleveland, OH. Beyond Pesticides, CWRU Medical School's Swetland Center for Environmental Health, and Beyond Pesticides Ohio convened the event. The Forum included a tour of the Cleveland Botanical Garden, as well as community gardens managed through its Green Corps program, which provides opportunities in organic urban farming to local youth. Speaker highlights included: David Hackenberg, the beekeeper who first discovered Colony Collapse Disorder; Jan Kasperski, CEO of the Ontario College of Family Physicians, and Theresa McClenaghan, executive director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association—people behind Canada's lawn pesticide bans; Melinda Hemmelgarn, award-winning *Food Sleuth* journalist and dietician; Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute farm manager; top university scientists; and more.



Public Education: Pesticides and Alternatives

The Center for Pesticide and Alternatives Information ensures that Beyond Pesticides plays a unique role in operating an outreach and education program and providing support to grassroots activists, policy makers, and others by phone, online, and at conferences and events. We publish a quarterly magazine, *Pesticides and You*, and the bi-monthly *School Pesticide Monitor*. Beyond pesticides operates an information-rich website featuring campaign materials, action alerts, scientific studies, factsheets, model policies, *Pesticide Gateway*, *Videos for Change*, and the *Daily News Blog*. You can also stay in touch with us via Facebook, www.facebook.com/beyondpesticides, and Twitter, www.twitter.com/bpncamp.