

# Pesticides and You

News from the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)

*One in a Series of NCAMP "How-To's"*

## Calculating Pesticide Production Risks

Pesticide use triggers a long list of environmental and health risks related to manufacture, transportation, storage, mixing, loading, application, disposal, and residue. Looking at parts of these cradle-to-grave risks provides tremendous insight into the full impact of pesticides.

••**Many toxic materials** are used and released during the manufacture of pesticides -- in Kansas, pesticide plants reported releasing 93.8 million pounds of toxic chemicals in 1989. Calculating the emissions of plants in your state is a potent organizing tool.

••**Chemical releases** by manufacturing facilities must be reported to EPA and the state, under Title III of the

Superfund Amendments of 1986. These reports are collated and released to the public, about two years after they are reported, as the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). The TRI database should be available at the regional EPA office or the state's community Right-to-Know program. State designated TRI contacts are listed in EPA's publication *Chemicals in Your Community: A Guide to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act*.

••**The TRI database** categorizes toxic emissions by the part of the environment affected -- fugitive air (accidental), stack air (intentional), water, land, publicly owned treatment works (into the sewer), offsite disposal (some-

where else), and underground injection (into wells, theoretically not near drinking water wells).

••**Facilities are identified** by Standard Industrial Codes (SIC), SIC 287 for pesticides and agricultural chemicals. Unfortunately, identifying facilities by their SIC code gives an incomplete picture. Plants often make more than one thing, and have more than one code. Because they are listed under only one, some pesticide facilities will not appear under SIC 287.

••**Obtain a list** of pesticide manufacturing and formulating facilities from the regional EPA office. You can then look up each facility on the TRI database and tabulate the total emissions for the state.

NCAMP would like to know how much the industry is spewing into your state's environment.