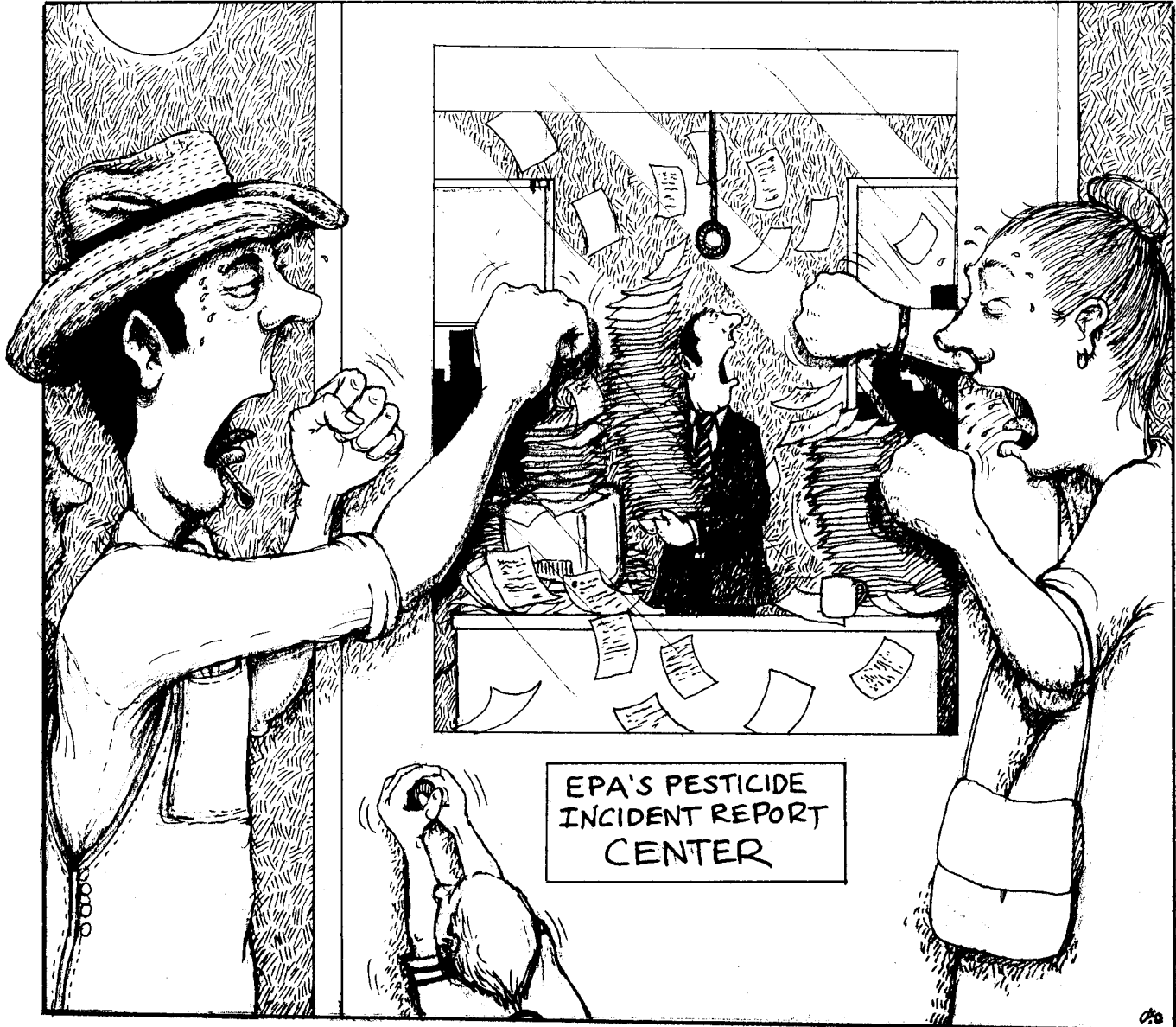


# Pesticides and You

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



## How Does Your Utility Company Rate?

Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP Launches Effort to Evaluate Utilities' Pesticide Use and Policies



How to Report Pesticide Adverse Effects and Get Access to Reported Adverse Effects Information • On Good Land: The Autobiography of an Urban Farm • Salmon's Trouble with Seattle

# Letter from Washington

Part of what Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP is about is building strength and expertise to move the pesticide reform agenda ahead. We help do this by convening a terrific annual national conference, this year held jointly with statewide California group Pesticide Watch in May in Santa Barbara, CA. There are few movement-building activities as important as getting together with people from across the country to share stories, new information, strategies, and grow our collective strength. It's important. It's critical. For those who have not set aside the time and money to benefit from this event, I urge you to plan for the year 2000, which will be held in the midwest. As one participant wrote after the California conference, the ability to "link up with the rest of the country has been the bond our organization has been seeking." And we all benefit from this bond. Whether we are in a city or small town, urban or rural, people often feel isolated and need the support that we get by linking with others. Cesar Chavez always said, "Si se puede." "It can be done". . . together!

What emerges from this cross fertilization of ideas and spirit is truly amazing. The success we are now seeing across the country on new protections from pesticides in the schools is testimony to this —people sharing ideas and strategies. What is now emerging is national legislation to provide improved protection for children and the adoption of alternative methods in and around every school in the country. Stay tuned for this exciting development. If you would like to know more right away, please let me know and we'll plug you in, if you have not already heard from us.

## Utility Companies

From school buildings and fields to utility company practices. We have in this issue a survey form that we would like you to send to your utility (electric) company. It comes at a critical time because EPA is now evaluating all the wood preservatives used in utility/telephone poles. Since 93% of pentachlorophenol is used in utility poles, in addition to creosote, copper, chromium VI and arsenic, the EPA needs better information than it currently has for its evaluation. We do not have to accept chemical-intensive solutions when non-chemical pole materials are available and viable. At the same time, we can work with utility companies to improve their rights-of-way management practices.

## Adverse Effects Reporting

What you will also find in this issue is a detailed *how-to* on making EPA's adverse effects reporting system function. Written by an EPA attorney in the enforcement office, it is a practical guide to making the system work for the people, rather than the chemical companies. Here, as it is described, we have an opportunity to make sure that EPA takes notice of the poisonings and contamination that occur. The author, James Handley, knows how to make the system work. He is responsible for EPA's lawsuit against DowElanco for its failure to report adverse effects incidents on chlorpyrifos (Dursban™) and other pesticides, resulting in a fine of nearly \$1 million.

## Adopting Ecological Approaches, Rather than Technological Fixes

As we enter the new millennium, we are still cleaning up from environmental pesticide disasters that began over 50 years ago, with a regulatory apparatus that continues to allow new types of poisonings and contamination that have far reaching effects. One of the most troubling and frightening aspects of the new synthetic pesticides and new approaches to plant pesticides or bioengineered plants is the failure of our regulatory system to ask the right questions and get the answers before allowing/approving new chemicals. We are reminded of how true a problem this is in this issue with a piece in the *Around the Country* section on a tragedy of massive proportions playing out in Lake Apopka, Florida. It was here where University of Florida zoologist Louis Guillette, Ph.D. several years ago told us about the rapid decline in the alligator population caused by pesticides and industrial chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system. He showed us graphic pictures of the demasculinizing effects of chemicals. Now the tragedy expands to the fish-eating birds that were attracted to newly restored wetlands that had been used for decades as farmland after being drained. 1,200 white pelicans, great egrets, blue herons and others, as well as their predators, are dead. It paints a graphic picture of how we consistently misjudge the far-reaching impacts of the chemicals we introduce into the environment under the theory that they are introduced in small doses with little exposure or that their risks are minimal. Yet, we continue to be governed by the same system that brought us Lake Apopka and regulatory approaches that are insensitive to the generational impacts of pesticide-intensive solutions where they are not needed. If there is any message here, it is: phase out the use of synthetic pesticides and replace them with ecological-based management approaches.

## Thank you Horizon Organic Dairy

Another part of the solution is the development of companies that are willing to link with the environmental community and support our efforts. Since June, Horizon Organic Dairy has done just that. Horizon has been advertising Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP on the back of its half-gallon organic milk cartons, telling people to take a look at our website and join the organization. (Check out our newly designed,

user-friendly site at [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)) Thank you Horizon for spreading the word on the importance of Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP.



—Jay Feldman is Executive Director of NCAMP

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## **Benzaldehyde Not So Peachy**

Dear Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP,

I was surprised that you implied that replacing the fumigant methyl bromide with benzaldehyde would be “peachy keen” (*USDA Scientists Find Peach Oil Effective Against Pests, May Replace Methyl Bromide, Pesticide and You, Spring 1999*). While methyl bromide is indeed one of the more toxic pesticides in use, benzaldehyde is not without toxic properties, too. Benzaldehyde is a narcotic and sensitizer, depresses the central nervous system, irritates mucous membranes, and can cause nausea, abdominal pain, and kidney damage (*Health Risks of the Twenty-One Most Common Chemicals Found in Thirty-One Fragrance Products, 1991 EPA Study*). Its frequent use in perfumes testifies to the toxic nature of perfumes, not the safety of benzaldehyde.

Ann McCampbell, MD  
Chair, Multiple Chemical  
Sensitivities Task Force  
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Dr. McCampbell,  
Thank you for pointing out the hazards associated with benzaldehyde. We apologize for implying that it is a good alternative when we announced USDA's research. Our initial findings suggested that benzaldehyde would be a good alternative to the more toxic methyl bromide. But upon further research, we found some surprising information. A March 1990 report, *Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of Benzaldehyde in F344/N Rats and B6C3F1 Mice (Gavage Studies)*, NTIS # PB90-253782, <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/>, stated “that there was some evidence of carcinogenic activity of benzaldehyde for male or female B6C3F1 mice, as indicated by increased incidences of squamous cell papillomas and hyperplasia of the forestomach.” The material safety data sheet (MSDS) from Aldrich Chemical Company (CAS # 100-52-7) states that “this product is or contains a component that has been reported to be possibly carcinogenic.”

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet for Benzaldehyde states that “because this is a MUTAGEN, handle it as a possible carcinogen — WITH EXTREME CAUTION.” We will continue to research the toxicity of this chemical. We appreciate your feedback.

## **Pesticides Near Playgrounds**

Dear Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP,

My synagogue sprays their lawn so I sent a letter to our Rabbi, Executive Director and President of the synagogue and received a response I am not pleased with. The executive director wrote: “...the area by the playground is not sprayed. The areas that are sprayed include the long grassy strip parallel to [the road] and the parking lot. I am not aware of any activities involving our children in these particular areas. In terms of the areas where chemicals are applied, I have asked our landscaper to spray on Friday afternoons, when school is over. This way the chemicals will have a day and one half to dry before Religious School on Sundays. Given the size of our properties and based on my conversation with the EPA, this is the most effective way to address our members' concerns and maintain our lawns.” I teach Sunday morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and refuse to take my kids outside. It's a shame. How should I respond? I've sent the Rabbi materials I received from the EPA and find it hard to believe that the EPA actually advocated spraying a yard so close to a playground where children of all ages, not to mention deer, squirrels, birds, play on a daily basis. The synagogue runs a pre-school program as well as two weekly supplemental religious school sessions and Sunday mornings. It's a very busy building. What do you suggest? I don't want to be antagonistic; however, I am concerned for my kids' health, the health of other members as well as the four-legged neighbors.

Edie Ungar Shafron  
University Heights, OH

Dear Ms. Shafron,

It sounds as though your synagogue has begun to take some initial steps in avoiding exposing the people that attend the synagogue. Although pesticides are not being applied directly to the playground, pesticides have a tendency to drift from their target area. Children also have a tendency to drift from the playground and play, walk or sit in areas that surround the playground. Children, the elderly and sick are especially sensitive to pesticide exposures. And the EPA generally lacks complete data on the hazards associated with many pesticides. Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP can help you identify several techniques that will eliminate the use of pesticides to control weeds in your synagogue's lawns. If the synagogue wants to contract a lawn care service provider, we can help you find one that uses non and least toxic pest control methods in your area. And, until the synagogue stops using toxic chemicals to treat the lawns, the synagogue should give 72 hour prior notification to its members for any pesticide application, whether outside or inside. Signs should also be posted at all the entrances to the area that has been treated with a pesticide and remain posted for 72 hours. Contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP for the lawn packet, \$4ppd.

## **Threatening Mosquitoes or Children?**

Dear Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP,

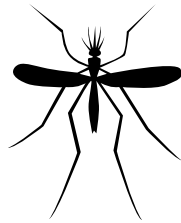
I live in the Outer Banks, North Carolina. I am concerned because our county is engaged in a countywide mosquito control campaign. Malathion has been sprayed the past two years. Many people in the county are sure they would be eaten alive without the spray. I have a seventeen-month old daughter and am very concerned about possible long-term health risks for her. I would like to get the county to use an alternative. The county also refuses to give advance notification of their spraying because of variable weather conditions. I am trying to get them to set up a phone line that is updated on a daily basis telling where they intend to spray.

They spray twice a week in a truck up and down every road. Any suggestions or information would be greatly appreciated.

Janet via email  
Dare County, NC

Dear Janet,

Numerous people have contacted us in the past months with questions regarding their community spraying toxic chemicals in an attempt to control mosquitoes. Adult female mosquitoes, the only ones that bite, can irritate and annoy humans and our pets, and can transfer such diseases as malaria, encephalitis and dog heartworm. Communities nationwide thus have intensive control programs for these pests. Regretfully, many programs rely solely on spraying potentially hazardous adult-killing pesticides. An array of alternative techniques which can be more effective, potentially less expensive and pose a much smaller risk to the public and the environment exist and are being successfully implemented in a growing number of communities. Education, habitat reduction, population monitoring and larviciding (control of mosquitoes in the early life states) are essential components in a mosquito abatement program. Through concentrating control at the root of the problem, adulticide spraying can be substantially reduced and even eliminated. Mosquito fish, bacteria, and growth regulating hormones used to kill larvae are safer, more species specific, and are applied to smaller areas than adulticides. Chemical-intensive programs have many problems associated with them. Adulticiding programs do not get at the mosquitoes until they have matured and are already a nuisance and do little to restrict breeding. Mosquitoes develop resistance to chemical pesticides over time, which renders the chemicals ineffective. Most programs that do not monitor mosquito population sizes, but spray weekly regardless of whether it is needed, leads to overspraying. This excessive spraying may exacerbate and even create mosquito prob-



lems by eliminating natural predators. Instead of malathion, community mosquito control programs could use *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israeliensis* (B.t.i), which is toxic only to a very narrow range of organisms.

Make sure that when you hear the mosquito fogging truck that you close every window in the house and turn off the air conditioner. Continue to push for notification and alternatives by going to the community meetings and ask them to announce their practices on the radio, in newspapers and by placing signs along their route.

Work with others in your community on passing a local ordinance or state law that requires the county to give prior notification and requires the county to identify least and non toxic means of pest control. Several states, including Alaska, Iowa, Maine, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, have some sort of notification requirement when a community wide spraying is to occur. Contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP for the Mosquito Packet, \$3.00ppd, or for the Community Pest Management Evaluation Tool Kit, \$10ppd.

### Member Uses Airwaves to Publicize NCAMP

Dear Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, Since last summer, there have been 15 Nebraska public radio spots that I placed, which credit NCAMP. The public radio station talks about alternatives to using pesticides on your lawn or in your home. They give NCAMP's phone number and web address. I really feel good when I hear them aired. There is much work to be done here in Nebraska and I really believe allowing these credits for NCAMP helps. Maybe people will stop and think after hearing on the radio that there are alternatives to using pesticides. Hopefully some will change their minds about using these poisons.

Allen Tork  
Hastings, NE

Dear Mr. Tork,

THANK YOU for helping us inform the public that there are alternatives to pesticides! People like you are so important in the movement away from chemical dependency. All of us must continue to keep the issue alive in our own communities, by calling in to radio shows, writing letters to the editor, and informing friends and neighbors as well as community politicians. At your suggestion, we would like to encourage other Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP members to run spots on their local public radio station. It doesn't cost that much in many markets and really gets the word out, balancing all the industry "advertising." Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP cannot do it alone, we must all join together and get active on the issues.

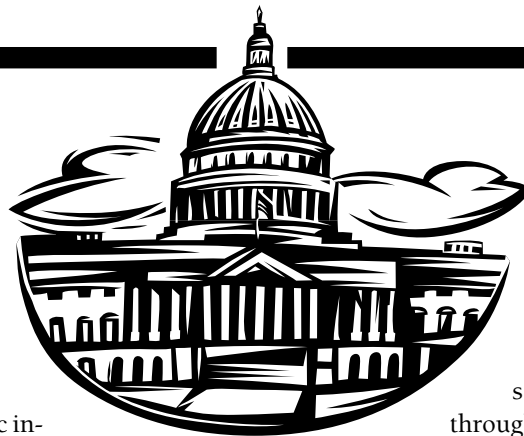


Kagan Owens is Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's Information Coordinator

### Write Us!

Whether you love us, hate us, or just want to speak your mind, we want to hear from you. All mail must have a day time phone and a verifiable address. Space is limited so some mail may not be printed. Mail that is printed will be edited for length and clarity. Please address your mail to:  
NCAMP • 701 E Street, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
fax: 202-543-4791  
email: [ncamp@ncamp.org](mailto:ncamp@ncamp.org)  
[www.ncamp.org](http://www.ncamp.org)





## ***Chlorfenapyr Shows High Risk to Birds but is Granted Special Use Exemption***

Thanks to the efforts of Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP and many environmental and bird welfare groups, the new insecticide chlorfenapyr was denied full registration by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 1999, but was granted a section 18 special exemption for use on cotton and other crops. The chemical is in a new chemical family called pyrroles, and has been used in the U.S. on an emergency basis on cotton for the past five years. It is manufactured by American Cyanamid, and though low in toxicity to mammals, is extremely toxic to avian species. Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP disapproves of the state-by-state exemption, and questions whether the action is legal, given the fact that under the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA), the law prohibits the emergency use of pesticides that are not making "progress toward registration." The release of the information on a new chemical for public comment prior to registration was a first for EPA. Concerned groups were thus able to have significant impact on the decision process. Contact Kelley Tucker, American Bird Conservation, 1250 24th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20037, 202-778-9773, ktucker@abcbirds.org, or see www.abcbirds.org.

## ***Update: Environmental Groups Quit Advisory Committee***

After several contentious meetings of the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), seven public health groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Consumers Union, and Farmworker Justice Fund, all terminated their participation on the advisory panel. Environmental Working Group had terminated its participation in Fall, 1998 as a means of protest. The TRAC, originated

by Vice President Al Gore in April 1998, is made up of representatives of various stakeholder sectors, including industry, medicine, public interest, and agriculture, who offer input into the risk assessment process being undertaken through the *Food Quality Protection Act of 1996*. In their resignation letter, the environmental groups state that their quitting results from too many delays and inaction on the part of the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture in removing highly toxic organophosphate pesticides from the market. The agencies are required by the law to make decisions regarding the most toxic pesticides by August of 1999. The general consensus among the groups is that industry is already influential with the agencies and that the TRAC process was a facade for true input. Contact Shelley Davis, Farmworker Justice Fund, 1111 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202-776-1757.

## ***Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program Updates Activity***

Referred to as "PESP," the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program is a membership program that "forms partnerships with pesticide users to reduce health and environmental risk and implement pollution prevention strategies." The PESP offers a quarterly newsletter (begun in 1998) called *PESP Update* to report on the Program's activities around the country. For example, recent articles were titled, "California Leads the Way in Educating Consumers," and "Integrated Pest Management in Schools on the Web." Each issue spotlights a supporter/partner company. For example, one recent article focused on a pest control company that

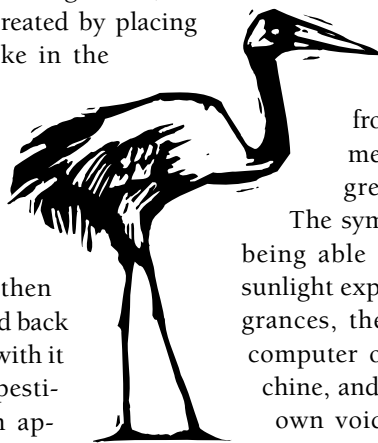
is innovative in its least toxic methods of pest control. The PESP offers volunteer "liaisons" from throughout the agency who provide assistance in answering questions about EPA policy changes and how they affect constituents. The program has been criticized for introducing unnecessary pesticide use and ignoring organic methods. For more information, contact PESP, U.S. EPA, MC 7511W, Washington, DC 20460, 800-972-7717, pespinfo@epa.gov, see www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP.

## ***Inerts Working Group***

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is establishing a new right-to-know working group to address issues of inert ingredients in pesticides. The group is called the "Inert Disclosure Working Group" and comes under the auspices of the Pesticide Policy Dialog Committee (PPDC), which is an advisory committee to OPP on various pesticide issues. It is made up of various stakeholders from sectors such as industry, public interest groups, the medical community, and the general public. The new working group will advise the PPDC on "ways to make information on inert ingredients more available to the public while working within the mandates of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA) and the related Confidential Business Information concerns," according to a June 26, 1999 EPA program update. Notice of the formation of the inert working group is in the June 21, 1999 Federal Register, Vol. 64, No. 118. Contact: Margie Fehrenbach, Designated Federal Officer for PPDC, Office of Pesticide Programs, OPPTS, 7501-C, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC, 20460, 703-308-7090, fehrenbach,margie@epamail.epa.gov.

## Massive Bird Kill in Lake Apopka, Florida: Pesticides Suspected

If events like this don't wake us up to the hazards of pesticides, nothing will. It is a foreboding story: at least 1,200 migratory birds died after suffering tremors and convulsions around Lake Apopka, Florida this Spring. The presumed culprits are organochlorine pesticides such as DDT (and its breakdown product DDE), toxaphene, dieldrin, and chlordane present in lake water and in fish consumed by the birds. Birds who fell victim to the contaminants include large birds such as pelicans, great egrets, and blue herons, and even a horned owl and a falcon that may have consumed bodies of dead birds. What is the source of these chemicals? Well, the area surrounding the lake used to be agricultural land for growing various vegetables, and also "muck farms" created by placing dikes around the lake in the 1940s. The land used to be intentionally flooded during the summer months to irrigate the crops and control weeds, and then the water was pumped back into the lake, taking with it all the residues of pesticides that had been applied to the land. The state recognized the need for a cleanup effort and began restoration in the 1980s. More recently, the water management district, with \$91 million in financial help from the state and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program, purchased the surrounding land and in late 1998 flooded the land for the first time during the winter months to restore the wetlands. One result of this was the attraction of thousands of migratory birds which, according to bird-watchers, spanned 174 different species. Numerous experts, engineers, and academics



had contributed input into the lake clean-up project, and several studies had been done, but none of these predicted the ensuing catastrophic bird kill. Birds continue to be impacted to the present time. It is the latest in the legacy of failed pesticide policies that protect pesticide use more than the health of people and wildlife. That's why Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP says, "pollution prevention is the cure." *Contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, or see Audubon magazine, "Lesson from Lake Apopka," by Ted Williams, July-August, 1999.*

## "Toxic Avenger" Cindy Deuhring Dies at 36

Activist Cindy Deuhring, who was poisoned by pesticides in 1984, lived with severe multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) until June 1999, when she passed away in her North Dakota home. Once an active pre-med student, she was exposed to pesticides from a routine apartment treatment, and since then got progressively worse symptoms.

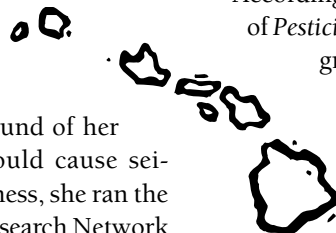
The symptoms prevented her from being able to endure sunlight exposure, fragrances, the use of a computer or fax machine, and even the sound of her own voice (noise would cause seizures). Despite her illness, she ran the Environmental Access Research Network (EARN) through which she educated others about toxics and MCS through writing articles and legal briefs. EARN was an NCAMP seed grant recipient in 1992. Cindy's work was recognized formally by the award of the Swedish Right Livelihood Award, the alternative to the Nobel Prize, and an ensuing article about her life in *People* magazine (see *Pesticides and You*, Vol. 18, No. 1-2). She was confined to a sterile house, and her husband, who lived in a cabin 500 feet away could only visit her after cleansing himself en-

tirely as contaminants on his body after a day of work would make her sick. Even though she had become a prisoner in her own home, she kept up great spirits until the end. May her death not be in vain, but serve as a message about how we must change the cavalier manner in which we regulate and use pesticides.

## Two Growers Break Pesticide Laws in Hawaii

In May 1999, a ginger farmer named Kap Dong Kim of Hilo, HI was charged with 11 counts of violating pesticide use and safety laws after farmworkers were hospitalized with acute pesticide poisoning, according to the Associated Press. Kim had received prior warnings from the state Department of Agriculture which were ignored. Kim is charged with both civil and criminal crimes, including illegal use of a restricted use pesticide and then lying to state officials about it when questioned. He applied the insecticide Nemacur (isophenphos) to his ginger crop, though it is not registered for that use. He may face a federal penalty of a maximum 10 year sentence or a fine of \$520,000.

According to the June 25, 1999 issue of *Pesticide Report*, a Hawaiian papaya grower is in a similar boat. He allegedly violated the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act's* worker protection standards. The name of the operation is Susan Andres Farm, and violations charged, among others, include allowing workers to return to the treated fields prior to the reentry periods, failure to post notice of pesticide application, and failure to provide pesticide training. This farm also had received prior warning from the State Department of Agriculture. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture Pesticide Education program provides farmers with information on how to comply with worker protection standards at 808-973-9411. *Contact Sue*



Darcey, *Pesticide Report*, 3918 Oglethorpe Street, Hyattsville, MD 20782, 301-864-3088, [sdarcey@erols.com](mailto:sdarcey@erols.com). For more on worker protection standard enforcement, contact Shelley Davis, Farmworker Justice Fund, 1111 19th Street, NW, Washington DC 20036, 202-776-1757, [sdavis@nclr.org](mailto:sdavis@nclr.org).

## Media Links Violence in Schools to Pesticides

A research scientist, in an article in the internet version of the *Chicago Tribune* on June 15, 1999, attributes the increasingly common violent acts at schools around the country with the toxic load that many children must endure in their environment. The article, by Robert Hatherill, Ph.D., a faculty member of the Environmental Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, suggests that heavy metals and pesticides in the bloodstream may be "sending teens over the edge." He says, "A rapidly expanding body of research shows that heavy metals such as lead and pesticides decrease mental ability and increase aggressiveness. Human behavior is so influenced by toxic chemicals that in the 1980s a new scientific discipline called behavioral toxicology came into existence. The article asserts that pesticide use has been on the rise for decades, and even toxic sludge laden with heavy metals such as mercury has been used on cropland. Trace pesticide combinations have been shown to induce abnormal thyroid hormone levels, which are associated with irritability, aggression, and multiple chemical sensitivity, says the article. Blood tests of violent criminals show more heavy metals in their blood than their non-violent criminal counterparts. According to Dr. Hatherill, a February 1996 article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), entitled "Bone Lead Levels and Delinquent Behavior," links heavy metals to attention deficit disorder, aggression, and delinquency. The author in-

sists that it is time to look beyond only the sociological roots of the violence problem and consider what we are eating: processed foods grown with toxic chemicals. Contact Dr. Robert Hatherill, Environmental Studies Program, UC Santa Barbara, 2320 Girvetz Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, 805-893-8988, [hatherill@envst.ucsb.edu](mailto:hatherill@envst.ucsb.edu).

## Pesticides Found in Amniotic Fluid

The preliminary results of an ongoing study of pregnant women shows that one third of 53 women in the Los Angeles area carry traces of pesticides in their amniotic fluid. The women whose amniotic fluid was tested are all 35 years old or older and in good health.



Main residues found include DDE, a breakdown product of banned pesticide DDT, and also PCBs. The presence of DDE raises concern because it is an endocrine disruptor—it can act as testosterone and block testosterone receptors in cells. Fluid samples were taken at 12-16 weeks, which is soon after the fetus' vital organs are beginning to develop. However, scientists are not yet willing to say at this stage what affects the chemicals are having on fetuses. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, a toxicologist at Texas A & M University says that the finding of such low quantities of DDE is actually encouraging because blood and fat tests over the past two decades used to show the presence at much higher levels of the chemical. However, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP points out that there is an extra natural barrier against toxins through the umbilical cord just as there is to the brain, so comparisons to the blood and fat do not signify reduced exposure. The study is being conducted jointly by Cedars Sinai Medical Center and the University of Calgary in Alberta,

Canada. Preliminary results of the study were presented at an Endocrine Society Conference in San Diego on June 14, 1999. The question is where the DDE is coming from—is it past use of DDT in the U.S. or current use of DDT abroad that is carried by wind and water? Contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP.

## Reduced Risk, Biological Pesticide Spinosad to Replace Malathion Against Medfly in Florida

Thanks to a keen eye and the efforts of many Florida activists, a safer replacement for malathion was discovered that will be used against the medfly in Florida. The biological pesticide has been used against other pests on various vegetable crops, meats, cotton, and citrus, and is said to be very specific to the target species, with little affect on non-target organisms. It received a Section 18 special exemption for use under the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act*, as of May, 1999. Its action against flies was discovered by Nina Powers, Horticulturalist, Sarasota County Government who says she saw Spinosad in use against caterpillars on turf, but it was also listed as effective against flies. The pesticide, made by Dow AgroSciences, is derived from bacteria and is very low in toxicity to mammals and avian species. Dow representatives say that there are no synthetic inert ingredients in Spinosad, but Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP is conducting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to verify this. Florida activists in Sarasota Citizens Rally Against Malathion (SCRAM) and Floridians Against Chemical Trespass (FACT) are joyful about their success. They had been pressuring authorities to find an alternative treatment for the flies for two years, since many people claimed to have been sickened by malathion exposure in past summers (see malathion class-action suit story below). Ms. Powers and staff maintain Sarasota's County

property without the use of synthetic pesticides. Contact Nina Powers, Horticulturalist, Facilities Maintenance, Sarasota County Government, 4730 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34235, 941-316-1087, npowers@co.sarasota.fl.us.

## **New Children's Environmental Health Center Opens in New York**

Mount Sinai Medical Center and Pew Charitable Trusts announced on April 8, 1999 the opening of the new Center for Children's Health and the Environment. The center will focus specifically on the links between exposure to toxins and childhood diseases, such as asthma, neurological damage, and cancer, and will serve physicians by helping them diagnose and treat environmental illnesses. It will be headed by Philip Landrigan, M.D., a prominent leader in the area of children's environmental health and current Chair of Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. He was a chairman of the National Academy of Science's Committee that produced the 1993 book, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*. He says that both children's cancer and asthma are clearly rising, and that it seems that neurological diseases may also be increasing. The center will be guided by a National Advisory Council, including Lynn Goldman, M.D., Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and former Assistant Administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency, Judith Palfrey, M.D. Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and Ruth Etzel, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics. A forum was held at the center on May 24-25, 1999 entitled, "Environmental Influences on Children: Brain, Development, and Behavior," to explore known data on the subject, as well as to discuss data gaps. Contact the

Center for Children's Health and the Environment, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, 1 Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1043, New York, NY 10029, 212-241-8689, and see [www.mssm.edu/cpm/cche.html](http://www.mssm.edu/cpm/cche.html).

## **Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against Malathion Manufacturer in Florida**

In a class action suit recently filed in U.S. District Court in Florida, three courageous families are representing at least 100,000 people who report suffering physical or property damage from the aerial spraying of malathion. Malathion spraying to eradicate the exotic medfly took place over residential neighborhoods during the summers of 1997 and 1998

in Sarasota, Polk, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties. Plaintiffs assert that their exposure to a

contaminated batch of malathion that was improperly stored caused symptoms such as sinus congestion, headaches, and respiratory problems, or fatigue. One of the lead plaintiffs, Kathy Rink, says her son developed a blood virus after exposure. One family says it had to move out of its home temporarily because of spraying. Plaintiffs are suing to recover damages for past and future medical expenses, property damage, emotional distress, and temporary relocation costs. Two claim centers have been established for those wishing to join the class action suit; call 800-794-1727. Contact Floridians Against Chemical Trespass, 6023 26th Street West, #279, Bradenton, FL 34207, 941-748-4286. The plaintiffs are being represented by Smith, Jones, and Fowler, 201 Saint Charles Avenue, Suite 3702, New Orleans, LA 70170, 504-525-2200.



## **Carrborro, NC Uses Hot Water Technology to Kill Weeds**

Congratulations to the town of Carrborro, North Carolina for its innovative approach to weed control: a new hot water treatment technology from New Zealand that has already proved successful in other countries. The special equipment brings water to near-boiling and carefully applies it to weeds so as to melt the waxy outer coating of their leaves. The plants are reported to turn brown and die within a few hours! The town has taken this innovative approach as part of its integrated pest



management policy, and it is the first town in the southeast U.S. to try this new method. Allen Spalt, Agricultural Resources Center, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP Board member, and member of the Carrborro Board of Aldermen, says, "We want to find ways to reduce the use of pesticides to eliminate the risk of any child being poisoned." Contact Allen Spalt, Agricultural Resources Center, 115 West Main Street, Carrborro, NC 27510, 919-968-7716, [aspalt@mindspring.com](mailto:aspalt@mindspring.com).

## **Healthy School Act of 1999 Passes California Assembly and Senate Environmental Quality Committee**

A new California Bill (AB1207) that calls for a reduction in overall school contaminants and an elimination of the most toxic and carcinogenic pesticides, passed the CA Assembly on June 2, 1999 and passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on July 12, 1999. The bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Kevin

Shelley, and will continue on to be considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee in late summer. Pesticide industry lobbyists persuaded some Senators to question the need for a ban of chemicals listed as causing cancer or reproductive effects under the state's "Proposition 65," which requires warning labels. The question here is one of exposure; even though these chemicals are known to be dangerous, how likely is it that children will be exposed to them in the school environment? Due to this question, a compromise amendment was adopted that would allow for "un-banning" listed chemicals if industry data can show that use in schools is "safe." The bill language still calls for a ban of several categories of pesticides, including those identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as carcinogens

and Category I and II acute toxins. The bill was originally prompted by the fact that California schools show a low ranking in comparison to other states when it comes to school pollutants—87% of CA schools use toxic pesticides in and around schools and 40% have deteriorating lead paint. State groups are urging California residents to contact their state Senators in support of the bill. *Contact Jonathan Kaplan, CALPIRG, 450 Geary Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-292-1487, jkaplan@igc.org, and see <http://www.pirg.org/CALPIRG>.*

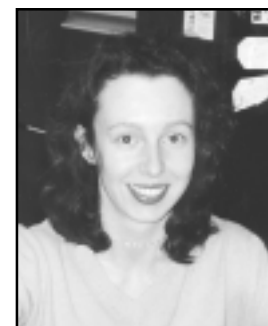
## NY Judge Finds for Organic Golf Courses on Long Island

A New York Judge decided under the *State Environmental Quality Review Act*

(SEQRA) that no new county golf courses could be built on Long Island until they had adequately assessed the feasibility of organic maintenance. Thanks to watchdog group, Long Island Neighborhood Network, which filed a suit in 1997 against Suffolk County, it was found that the environmental impact statements issued by the county for five new proposed golf courses had not taken a "hard look" at all the possibilities on how to mitigate environmental damage from pesticides and fertilizers. A study entitled *Toxic Fairways*, published by the New York State Attorney General in 1991 surveyed 107 golf courses on Long Island and received responses from 52. These 52 apply 200,000 lbs of dry pesticide products and 9000 lbs of liquid pesticides per year. This use pattern could



potentially contaminate Long Island's groundwater, its primary source of drinking water. Peter Scully, a spokesperson for the County Executive, says that all Long Island golf courses are currently moving toward organic methods anyway. In 1997, Suffolk County passed a resolution requiring development of organic maintenance plans for parks and its existing four county golf courses; implementation of these plans is at an early stage. There are already several golf courses on the Island that use all or partial organic methods including Crab Meadow Golf Course, and these courses show that it *can* be done. *Contact Long Island Neighborhood Network, 90 Pennsylvania Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758, 516-541-4321.*



Beth Fiteni  
is Beyond  
Pesticides/  
NCAMP's  
Program  
Coordinator

### Government's About Face on Pesticide Restrictions

*The proposals and actions to reverse agreements made with EPA and Congress can make one dizzy.*

First, EPA announced its adverse effects reporting rule, published on September 19, 1997 (40 CFR 159) after a public hearing process, only to later publish a notice which "eliminates" the requirement to report all incidents that may cause a delayed or chronic adverse effect in the future. This amended rule was issued on August 3, 1998, two months after the original went into effect, but with no public hearing and comment. (See story on page 9.)

Now EPA, in the June 3, 1999 *Federal Register*, 64 FR 29823, says it may propose changes to the emergency exemption program (Section 18 of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act* [FIFRA]), changes it was presented with after a 1996 "public workshop" to "informally establish a dialogue amongst and solicit the opinions of a variety of individuals and groups affected by section 18 decisions." The proposal, delivered to EPA in 1997 from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), would strip down the standards that are intended to keep the overuse and abuse of this program in check. The section 18 program has historically witnessed a growth in backdoor pesticide registrations for new uses of registered and not-yet registered pesticides. Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP was never informed of this informal public meeting, despite the fact that the organization participated in a year-long negotiated rule-making (1984-5) on the subject and subsequent guidance documents subject to public comment over the last 15 years. At the same time, EPA just recently decided to permit emergency exemptions for the insecticide, chlorphenapyr, (see p. 4) for which it has denied regular registration, a violation of the spirit and intent of the Section 18 standards.

Then there is the new *Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act* (H.R. 1592), introduced by Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) on April 28, 1999, which would weaken the *Food Quality Protection Act* (FQPA). It would require EPA to use actual data and "sound science" instead of default assumptions when conducting risk assessments under FQPA. This approach runs contrary to the precautionary principle of *prevention* until complete data can be gathered. The provisions will undermine the agreements struck in 1996 that traded the Delaney Clause (that prohibited cancer causing pesticides in processed foods) for a risk-based standard with protection for children. The bill was developed by the pro-pesticide lobby's "Implementation Working Group" that authored the "Road Map" for implementing FQPA in June 1998.

# How to Report Pesticide Adverse Effects & Get Access to Reported Adverse Effects Information

by James Handley

Mr. Handley is an attorney in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460, 202-564-4171, handleyjames@epamail.epa.gov. The views expressed here are solely his own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

James Handley was the attorney in an EPA enforcement action against DowElanco in 1995 for its failure to report to EPA adverse effects reports, as required by law, which it received on the insecticide chlorpyrifos. His work resulted in a fine of \$876,000, the largest in the program's history. DowElanco's violation of Section 6(a)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) came to light after the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides advised Connie Chung's CBS program *Eye-to-Eye* to ask EPA whether it had received reports from DowElanco on poisonings. Specifically, the program was reporting on a lawsuit involving a West Virginia boy, Joshua Herbst, whose parents sued DowElanco for his injuries that they attributed to prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos. EPA had no report of the poisoning. And, after further investigation, it was found that DowElanco had failed to report hundreds of incidents, most of which involve its product Dursban (containing chlorpyrifos), but some also involving other DowElanco pesticides. Dursban™ is an organophosphate pesticide, the effects of which include chronic delayed neuropathy (numbness and tingling in the hands and feet) as well as other neurological symptoms. As a result of EPA's review of heretofore unreported incidents, DowElanco agreed to withdraw registration for Dursban when used in total-release foggers. (Ordinarily registrants do not withdraw registrations unless EPA cancellation seems at least probable, and that generally occurs when there is serious concern that the risks of a given use outweigh the benefits.) All other uses of Dursban are unaffected by this action. The story does not end here; Dursban adverse effects continue to be reported. In July 1999, EPA filed an action against Dow AgroSciences (successor to DowElanco) for late reporting of ad-

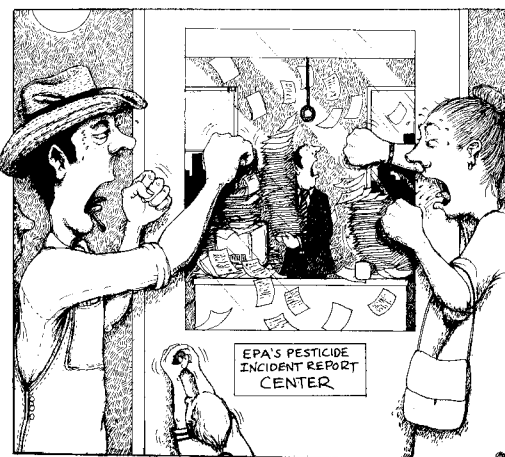
verse effects involving termite application to a house in Overland Park, MO. The reported adverse effects include neurological symptoms. —Editor.

## Adverse Effects Reporting Supplements Registration Data from Registrants

EPA's pesticide registration process involves the submission by pesticide registrants of data about the products that they seek to register. To support claims of safety, EPA may require registrants to perform animal and other laboratory studies. Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) section 6(a)(2) provides a window on the real world and an after-the-fact check on registration

decisions by requiring registrants to report to EPA "additional factual information about unreasonable adverse effects." This information may come in the form of studies that the registrant undertakes or learns about or information about exposure incidents, for instance, where individuals become ill or die as a result of pesticide exposure. EPA has developed a regulation (62 FR 49369, September 19, 1997) describing what is to be reported, which explains that registrants must report information about persons or non-target organisms that suffer adverse effects after exposure. No proof of a "cause and effect" relationship is required for an incident to be reportable because EPA uses the reports to look for patterns; spurious reports are sifted out in this process. Adverse effects information may lead the Agency to change the label, limit the approved uses of a pesticide, or even cancel a registration. (See sidebar)

Adverse effects reports are therefore an important supplement to the data generated by registrants in support of registration and perhaps this is particularly true now as EPA reassesses pesticide registrations and food tolerances. This article is intended to give consumers and public interest organizations suggestions on how to report these adverse effects and, in addition, how to get access to the information that has already been reported to EPA.



## EPA Eliminates Requirement to Report “chronic or delayed” Adverse Effects

The FIFRA 6(a)(2) rule describes what information pesticide registrants are required to report. The rule was promulgated after public notice & comment in the *Federal Register* and went into effect in the summer of 1998. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs conducted a series of meetings that spring with registrants (chemical companies) to answer questions and gain their cooperation in reporting under the new rule. A group of trade organizations representing registrants petitioned EPA to eliminate the requirement that they report incidents where a person “may suffer a delayed or chronic adverse effect in the future.” Registrants expressed concern that this would require them to report whenever someone *thought* he or she *might* later get sick. EPA agreed to eliminate this requirement, and issued a pesticide registrant notice (Pesticide Registrant (PR) Notice 98-4) eliminating the requirement on August 4, 1998. Unfortunately, eliminating this requirement may also hinder EPA's ability to track incidents of chronic or delayed neuropathy which are adverse effects associated with organophosphates. Dursban (chlorpyrifos) is one of the most widely used organophosphates and large quantities are very commonly used to treat soil around homes and other buildings for termites (see related story on DowElanco and Dursban). See the text of the PR notice at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/fifra6a2.htm>.

**Action Item:** It is important that EPA collect as much information about all possible illnesses related to pesticide exposure. Write a letter to EPA Administrator Carol Browner (401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460) to reinstate the reporting requirement for chronic and delayed effects immediately. —Editor

First, it should be emphasized that the *requirement* to report is borne by the *registrant* (chemical company). That is because the registrant is, in effect, being issued a license by EPA to distribute and sell a pesticide. Reporting adverse effects to EPA is a condition of the registration. Consumers typically report problems to registrants or their agents or to poison control centers and this information is often organized and reported to EPA. EPA has contracts with several universities that collect and assemble data from poison control centers and provide it to the Agency. Registrants (at least those in compliance with the law) also have a process for collecting and summarizing data to EPA. Except for more severe incidents (e.g., involving deaths) registrants may accumulate data about several incidents before submitting it, and reports of the least severe incidents are submitted as summaries.

### How to Report Pesticide Adverse Effects

When a pesticide adverse effect involving human health occurs, obviously the first priority is to obtain first aid and medical assistance. Refer to the label and call a poison control center and/or a hospital. Provide as much specific information about the product and the exposure as you can so they can respond with appropriate first aid instructions (or bring the proper antidotes in the ambulance). Another resource for medical and toxicological advice, funded by EPA, is the National Pesticide Telecommunication Network at 1-800-858-7378 which operates between 6:30 and 4:30 PM Pacific Standard Time. (It collects and reports data to EPA but it doesn't go into the 6(a)(2) data base.) You should also contact the pesticide registrant both for emergency advice and to report the incident. Many companies put toll free numbers on their labels that are staffed to provide assistance, often 24 hours a day. In an ideal world, a call to the poison control center or to the registrant would be enough to assure that the incident was reported. The registrant or the poison control center would report the information to EPA. But for various reasons that does not always happen. Individuals who want to be sure their reports are received by EPA can submit information themselves. Similarly, organizations of people who are routinely exposed to pesticides (such as farm workers or pesticide applicators) may be able to collect and submit useful adverse effects information that presently is not being reported.

Submitting information to EPA is straightforward. EPA decided not to develop a required form for reporting (because this would have required justification for information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act), but the pesticide industry, with EPA advice, has developed a standard form (with instructions) for reporting which can be found on the Internet at [www.fifra6a2.com](http://www.fifra6a2.com). (Other information about the FIFRA 6(a)(2) program, including the text of the 6(a)(2) rule can be found at [www.epa.gov/pesticides/fifra6a2.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/fifra6a2.htm). For instance, this site includes the text of Pesticide Registrant Notice 98-4 which eliminated until further notice the requirement that registrants report incidents where “a person may suffer a delayed or chronic adverse effect in the future.”) (See *Sidebar*)

A report on a human health incident should generally include:

- 1 Who was injured? (Name, address, contact phone number, age, gender, pregnant?)
- 2 When did the injury occur and when did the symptoms arise?

- ③ What was the product and registration number? How much was involved?
- ④ What were the circumstances? (E.g., was there a spill or leak? Were the label instructions followed? Was the product being mixed, sprayed, transported, etc.?)
- ⑤ What was the route of exposure? (E.g., breathing fumes, contact with skin, eyes, eating contaminated food, etc.)
- ⑥ Was the exposure intentional? (E.g., attempted suicide or homicide.)
- ⑦ Medical care sought and obtained? Any medical opinions?
- ⑧ List of symptoms and adverse effects, including when they started.
- ⑨ Results of any lab tests performed.

Reports can be supplemented later if more information is obtained after the original report.

For incidents involving fish, wildlife, plants and other non-target organisms, the information is somewhat different, but follows similar logic. Reports should include:

- ① The species affected and number of individuals per species.
- ② Symptoms or adverse effects, including description of severity.
- ③ Magnitude of effects (e.g., square feet or land or miles of stream).
- ④ Pesticide application rate (per acre).
- ⑤ Results of lab tests.
- ⑥ Circumstances and description of habitat.
- ⑦ Distance from treatment site.
- ⑧ Name of the pesticide product and registration number.

For incidents involving domestic animals, reports should include:

- ① Type of animal, including species and breed.
- ② Exposure route.
- ③ Adverse effects, including severity.
- ④ Treatment.
- ⑤ Lab test results.
- ⑥ Name of the pesticide product and registration number.

In addition to incidents involving adverse effects to humans and non-target organisms, EPA requires incidents involving contamination to groundwater and surface water and of unauthorized residue in food or feed to be reported. All incidents should be reported to:

Document Processing Desk, 6(a)(2)  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 Office of Pesticide Programs (7504C)  
 401 M Street, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20460

## Federal Pesticide Regulation under FIFRA & FQPA

The primary laws that regulate pesticides in the United States are the *Federal Insecticide Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA) and the *Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act*, both of which were amended by Congress with the 1996 *Food Quality Protection Act* (FQPA). FIFRA established EPA's program for registration and labeling of pesticides. In order to register a pesticide, EPA must determine that when used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice, the product will perform its intended function without causing *unreasonable adverse effects on the environment* (which in this context is construed to include human health). When EPA registers a pesticide, it reviews and approves a label submitted by the registrant. The label contains the legal restrictions on the pesticide's use; misuse is a violation of federal law.

Many pesticides have been registered for decades without a comprehensive review of their risks and benefits. When Congress enacted FQPA in 1996, it mandated that EPA review all food tolerances for pesticides (and implicitly, all registrations) over the subsequent 10 years. Congress instructed the Agency to develop a schedule within the first year prioritizing this review, focusing first on the pesticides that pose the greatest risk to public health and to complete its review of the first one-third of these pesticides within 3 years. The deadline for review of the first third is August 16, 1999. Congress provided that the schedule setting the *priority* in which EPA will review pesticides cannot be challenged in court but once the schedule is established, "*failure to take final action pursuant to the schedule*" is subject to judicial review. FQPA also instructed EPA to take special account of the effects of pesticides on children and of endocrine-disrupting effects. It also set up a default "ten-fold margin of safety" that is to be applied where there is inadequate data to assess risk. At present, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs is busily working to meet the August deadline. The process has been controversial, and EPA set up a "Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee" to involve "stakeholders" and make the reassessment process more "transparent" to registrants and the public. (Several environmental groups eventually withdrew from this advisory committee, complaining of the slow pace and their perception that the agricultural chemicals industry wielded disparate influence on the Committee.)

Some states (notably California) have their own pesticide adverse effects reporting systems, so you may also want to report to your state so it is aware of the situation. Additionally, some public interest groups, such as Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, compile information about pesticide incidents and you may want to provide information to them to assist in their advocacy. (See box)

### Adverse Effects Data at EPA

When EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs receives adverse effects information, it reviews, summarizes, and enters it into a computer data base for EPA to use in performing its regulatory function over pesticide registrations. The FIFRA 6(a)(2) data base is organized by pesticide category and registrant. Because of concerns about privacy, it generally does not contain specific information about individuals, including names and medical data. Although the data base was not set up to inform the public, the information may be of interest to individuals or organizations that want to know about reported problems. For instance, if you are deciding whether to use a particular product or if you were injured or are an attorney representing (or considering representing) a person who feels he or she was injured by pesticide exposure, you may want to check for reports of similar incidents involving the same pesticide or active ingredient.

Information about pesticide adverse effects can be obtained by the public through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Office of Pesticide Programs has a web page on how to obtain information at [www.epa.gov/opppmsd1/PR\\_Notices/pr94-3.html](http://www.epa.gov/opppmsd1/PR_Notices/pr94-3.html). FOIA requests should be submitted to:

Freedom of Information (1105)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
Fax (202) 260-0295

FOIA requests should be as specific as possible. For instance if you are interested in a particular pesticide and a particular type of adverse effect, specify those as much as possible including the active ingredient. OPP has very limited staff, which limits the number of requests they can handle and the speed with which they can respond. It's not unusual for a response to take several months. To speed the process along, you may want to do a "piggy-back" FOIA, which means you ask for the documents that have previously been released under FOIA on your

subject. The Agency can more quickly send you a copy of what was already released to another person. At the same time you may want to supplement this request by asking for any new documents that were created or submitted after the prior request. This will generally take longer. Keep in mind that FOIA does not require the Agency to create any new documents or to even summarize existing documents. The EPA person responding to your request may call you to clarify the request. This person may be willing to describe what documents exist and are available. For instance, for a particular pesticide, you may simply want the summary information from the 6(a)(2) data base. After reviewing that, you may decide that for certain incidents or studies you want the supporting documents that were submitted. Keep in mind that FOIA exempts from disclosure "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Thus, in responding to your request, the Agency is likely to "redact" portions of some documents in order to protect individuals' privacy.

As you can see, FOIA and FIFRA §6(a)(2) are imperfect tools for members of the public who want to know more about pesticide adverse effects. Answering information requests from the public is one of many important responsibilities of the Office of Pesticide Programs, and FQPA has placed new and urgent responsibilities on OPP staff. Therefore, they would appreciate your efforts to coordinate and consolidate information requests. Perhaps this is an area that deserves increased resources. Under the *Government Performance and Results Act* (GRPA), EPA was required in 1997 to submit to Congress a 5-year Strategic Plan which will be updated in 2000. One of EPA's ten Strategic Goals is "Expansion of American's Right to Know About Their Environment." This goal is explained as follows:

"Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange among scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it."

Should information about pesticide risks and benefits, including adverse effects information, be part of this "right to know"? Could additional resources be provided to the Office of Pesticide Programs to make 6(a)(2) data more accessible to the public so it can play a more informed role in the reassessment of pesticide risks mandated by FQPA?

## Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's Toxic Warning Signals Project

Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP:

- collects data on incidents through its Pesticide Incident Report (PIR). Contact us for a copy.
- maintains a step-by-step guide, "How to Avoid Pesticide Poisoning and What to Do if You Can't," on its website [www.ncamp.org](http://www.ncamp.org).
- will publicize the tragedies associated with daily pesticide use, share them with regulatory officials and the media, help people find more facts, litigate, and build a base of political power to turn the situation around.

# On Good Land

## *The Autobiography of an Urban Farm*

Michael Ableman (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA, 1998)



Michael Ableman

In this stunningly photographed book which poetically tells the story of Fairview Gardens in Goleta, California, one of the oldest and most diverse organic farms in an urban environment, Michael Ableman raises many important issues on sustainable food production. *On Good Land* shows the reader the importance of the connection between the earth and the food we eat. Ableman, an organic farmer since 1973 and manager of Fairview Gardens,

has transformed the piece of land the 12-acre farm sits on into a highly productive organic community farm. He has



turned packed-down dirt and concrete into rich soil for cherimoyas and peaches, while at the same time educating the surrounding suburban community on what he is trying to do. After years of convincing neighbors of the importance of eating seasonal, local food that is pesticide-free,



Michael Ableman meeting with participants of the 17th National Pesticide Forum and 8th CA Organizing Conference, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP and Pesticides Watch.

Ableman has nurtured many believers who cannot live without the vegetables and community functions his little farm provides. Ableman cites the astounding rate of the loss of family farmland at 46% per hour in our nation and has worried about the future of his own farm in his 19 years of managing and op-

erating Fairview Gardens. The farm's land became a public trust in 1994, which requires it to remain a working organic farm and perform educational programs in communities and schools under a non-profit organization status, called the Center for Urban Agriculture. Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP members saw Fairview Gardens on one of Ableman's many educational tours during their annual conference, *The National Pesticide Forum, Pollution Prevention Is the Cure* in May 1999. For a copy (\$18.95), contact the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, 598 N. Fairview Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117, 805-967-0188, fairview@aol.com. Or purchase by contacting Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP or using our website [www.ncamp.org](http://www.ncamp.org), click on Join/Shopping.

— Hilary Melcan

On Good Land excerpts:

*Fairview Gardens turned one hundred years old in 1995. One hundred years ago this valley boasted some of the richest topsoil on the West Coast, some thirty feet deep in places. Now shopping centers, gas stations, and fast food restaurants have replaced the family farms and ranches that once thrived here. At Fairview's centennial celebration I put forth the following question to an audience of eight hundred people: "What do we as a community want to see on this land for the next ten, twenty, fifty, or one hundred years?" Can we really survive without fertile soils, without fresh and unpoisoned food, without a place to teach our children about interconnections and context, or a place to gather on the land?*

~

*One of the results of our disconnection from the land has been the modern phenomena that we need "experts," "consultants," "farm advisors," and books like this one to tell us how to relate to the world of soil and plants. In traditional agrarian societies a child learned from riding on its mother's back while she worked in the fields or from apprenticeships. If you eat, soil is your business. Learn what good soil looks, feels, and smells like. Take a piece of land or a garden that has been abused and rebuild it, discover how to grow soil while growing food for yourself and your family. Believe in yourself. You are only two or three generations removed from the land.*

~

*Even at its best, farming is extractive. It consumes resources, both natural and human. Sustainable agriculture is often discussed in terms of the soils, air, and water. It rightfully addresses the distance food must travel and the impacts of farming on the environment. We must also look at how well it sustains the people who do the work. It is a struggle to provide good wages, quality housing, health benefits, and a sense of ownership from a business that earns its annual budget by the pound.*

# Salmon's Trouble With Seattle

## *Salmon Decline Tied to Pesticides that Disrupt Endocrine System*

**Beth Fiteni**

It's a rough life being a salmon these days. Just ask the salmon living in America's northwest waters. Not only is their life cycle interrupted by dams and fishing practices, but now salmon must contend with pesticides. It is hard to imagine that the mighty Salmon could be affected by humans' indiscriminate use of toxins, but sure enough, recent research, including a study by the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), shows exactly that. And, the federal government in February declared nine species of Salmon as threatened or endangered, including several species of Puget Sound area's famous Chinook!

In reality, this news should come as no surprise. From 1975 to 1984, foresters in the northwest region of the U.S. used to spray the insecticide Matacil 1.8D to control the spruce budworm in the Northwest watersheds. 4-Nonylphenol (4-NP), used as an inert ingredient in the pesticide formulation, is an estrogen mimic. It is therefore the prime suspect in what's preventing salmon from making crucial

hormonal transformations necessary to adapt from fresh water to salt water when migrating to the sea. The fish simply become unable to expel excess salt from their bodies.

This hypothesis is suggested in a Canadian study entitled, "Effects of water-borne 4-nonylphenol on Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) smolts," by Wayne Fairchild, et al, in which scientists analyzed spray maps of the area. Though two other forms of Metacil besides Metacil 1.8D were used in the area's forests over the period of time analyzed, no salmon declines were noted—but neither of these two formulations contained 4-NP. Salmon exposed in a laboratory to the Metacil 1.8D, however, exhibited a significant failure to thrive, or died within 2 months of entering salt water. Heavy Metacil 1.8D applications during spring months coincided with the final stages of smolt development.

The May 8, 1999 *Science News* reported on this study, in a story entitled, "Pollutant Waits to Smite Salmon at Sea," pointing out that nonylphenols, which are also found in house-cleaning products and industrial effluent, are not removed efficiently by water treatment plants like other contaminants so they tend to build up in downstream waters. This new research shows us that more attention needs to be paid to inert ingredients contained in pesticide formulations, especially those used in watersheds that feed rivers where salmon

live. (See *Science News*, Vol. 155, May 8, 1999, [www.sciencenews.org](http://www.sciencenews.org), and also "Does an Association Between Pesticide Use and Subsequent Declines in Catch of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Represent a Case of Endocrine Disruption?" by Wayne Fairchild, et al., *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Volume 107, Number 5 in May 1999.)

### **Diminishing Returns: Salmon Decline and Pesticides**

In February, 1999, NCAP released a report linking damage to salmon populations with pesticide exposure. In the report, entitled *Diminishing Returns: Salmon Decline and Pesticides*, NCAP notes that while salmon populations have been interrupted by numerous factors, more research on the effects of pesticides is clearly warranted. Salmon can sense when they encounter a polluted area of water and they avoid those areas, thus diverting normal routes of migration and delaying spawning. Pesticides can impair swimming



Tom and Pat Leeson

ability, and may affect salmon indirectly by damaging their habitat and food sources. Toxic runoff has already led to several fish-kills in the Northwest, and the report reiterates that pesticides may impede salmon's ability to adjust from freshwater to saltwater. Exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals may also interfere with salmon's reproductive systems, as we have seen with other species of wildlife, such as alligators in Florida. All of these factors add up to declining returns of adult salmon to spawn in Northwest streams. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides*, P.O. Box 1393, Eugene, OR 97440, 541-344-5044, and see "Diminishing Returns" report at <http://www.pond.net/~fish1lfr/salpest.pdf>.

NCAP's study is supported by a timely U.S. Geological Survey study entitled, "The Quality of Our Nation's Waters: Nutrients and Pesticides," that shows trace levels of pesticides in waters around the U.S. The survey analyzed 20 American watersheds including the northwest Willamette watershed. The following finding will surprise most people: pesticide contamination of streams is as high in urban areas as it is in agricultural areas, just with differing types of chemicals. While most stream samples around the country found contamination levels of individual pesticides in compliance with current Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards, more than half the U.S. streams tested showed concen-

trations of at least one pesticide that exceeded a guideline for protection of aquatic life. Some of the most frequently detected pesticides, though often in trace amounts, are endocrine disruptors. Even compliance levels are questionable given inadequate safety testing regarding additive or cumulative effects and impacts on children, among others. For a free copy of the study, contact Branch of Information Services, P.O. Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225, specify USGS report C-1225 or see <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/ps.nawqa.html>.

### Seattle's Trouble with Pesticides

This national study included a coordinated effort with USGS, King County (Washington State), and the Washington State Department of Ecology in April and May, 1998, which analyzed samples from 12 streams in the Puget Sound area. As reported in the May 19, 1999 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, this is the time of the year when residential pesticide use peaks, so—with no surprise—the study results showed that there is a correlation between the concentration of pesticides in streams and local sales of retail pesticides. Ninety-eight chemical compounds were measured; 23 pesticides were detected in the streams, five of them at levels toxic to aquatic organisms. One pesticide detected in ALL 12 streams was diazinon, which happens to be the most frequently used insecticide on home lawns and is highly toxic to fish. Mecoprop and 2,4-D were also found in all the streams studied; both of these are also commonly used on residential lawns. Mecoprop can cause reproductive damage, and 2,4-D is a carcinogen. It is unclear how these toxins affect salmon, so the investigation for connections continues, with studies planned for all seasons of the year.

Like any responsible city would have done given all this converging research, the city of Seattle recognized its role in contributing to the endangered salmon problems, and decided to do something about it. The strategy was to request that Seattle residents reduce pesticide and fertilizer use this Spring in order to protect the local environment, and espe-

cially its salmon. Local newspapers ran ads from the City, advising citizens on “Five Things You Can Do To Save Our Salmon.” The one major flaw in its approach was that the city itself continued to spray its public green space! The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 24, 1999, ran a story in which the region’s transportation and parks department admit that they use herbicides regularly on parks, roadways, and planting strips. They claim that there is not enough manual labor on staff to cover the large area they must keep looking manicured and pest-free.

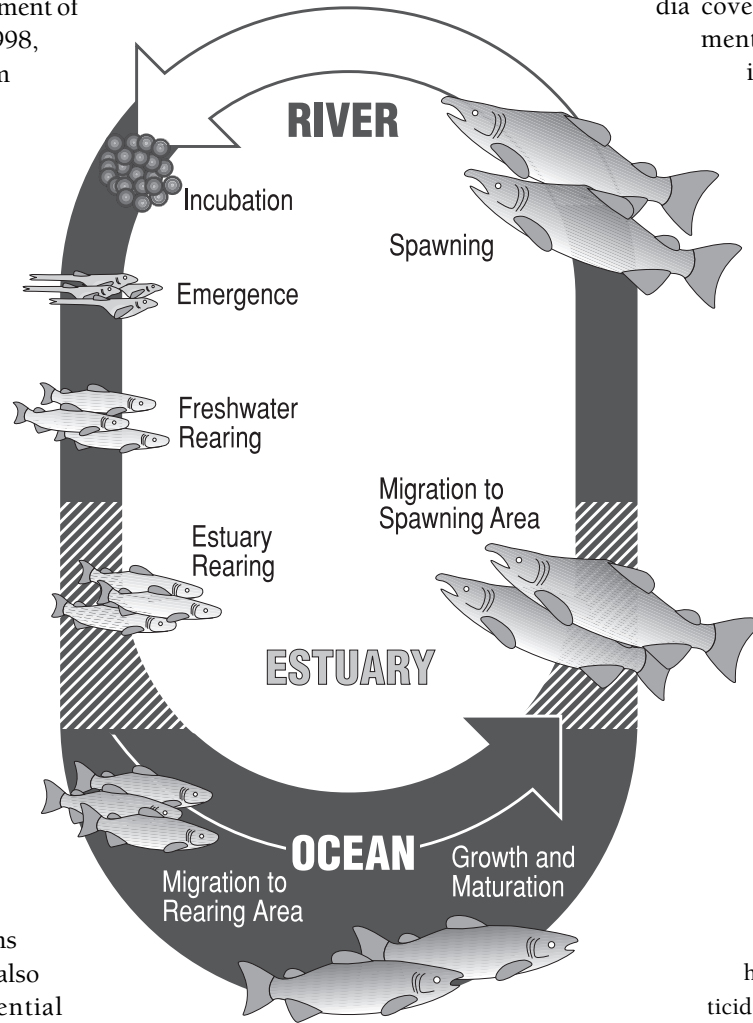
For several weeks, local newspapers were replete with debate over the issue in an attempt to assign responsibility to the various parties involved. Thanks to media coverage and urging by environmental groups such as the Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC), Mayor Paul Schell in April reaffirmed the city’s commitment to reducing pesticide use and declared that the city will use reduced pesticide, “natural” lawn care at its 20 library branches and will also reduce fertilizer use. Environmental groups will be watching to see that the Mayor sticks to his decree, as city pesticide policy decisions continue to be debated throughout the summer.

Erika Schreder, director of the Pesticides Reform Project, Washington Toxics Coalition, is quoted in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, as saying,

Salmon need clean water. But the new USGS study has confirmed that when pesticides are used on lawns, school grounds, roadsides, farms, etc., they don't stay put. Rather, our abundant rainfall carries them directly to the streams that we

hope salmon will call home. Let's make reducing pesticide use a priority, and show that we're willing to make changes to bring the salmon back.

For more information about pesticides and salmon, and Seattle's related actions, contact Erika Schreder, Washington Toxics Coalition, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue N, Ste 540, Seattle, WA 98103, 206-632-1545, [eschreder@watoxics.org](mailto:eschreder@watoxics.org).



Public Inter est GRFX

# How Does Your Utility Company Rate?

*Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP Launches Effort to Evaluate Utilities, Pesticide Use and Policy*

**W**ood preservatives used to treat millions of utility poles across the country pose a serious threat to public health and the environment. Wood preservatives constitute the single largest pesticide use in the United States. The chemicals, used widely to extend the life of wood products, including over 100 million utility poles, contain some of the most hazardous toxic contaminants on the market. The chemicals include pentachlorophenol, creosote, arsenic and chromium VI and contaminants such as dioxin, furan and hexachlorobenzene. According to the EPA, wood preservatives account for over one-third of all pesticide use. The sole purpose of these chemicals is to preserve wood by killing insects, bacteria and fungus.

Wood preservatives leave a toxic trail, which includes their production, wood treatment, installation of poles, transportation, storage and disposal. There are at least 795 wood preserving facilities across the country and hundreds of Superfund hazardous waste sites that are contaminated with wood preservatives. Treated poles continue to pollute after they are taken out of service and used as fence posts or other building material. Utility companies can adopt safer, cost competitive practices by using alternative pole materials such as steel, concrete and fiberglass.

Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's Poison Poles Campaign began with the development and distribution of *Poison Poles: Their Toxic Trail and the Safer Alternatives* (For a copy, contact, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP.) This report successfully

brought the issue of the widespread contamination and poisoning from the use of wood preservatives on utility poles and availability of alternatives in front of utility industry executives and decision-makers, consumer activists, utility regulators and the general public.

It will take an active public to push for the adoption of alternatives and a more aggressive regulatory climate to provide improved protection of public health and the environment.

In order to find out if your utility company uses environmentally responsible practices, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP has developed a survey. The survey questions utility companies on their alternative materials and

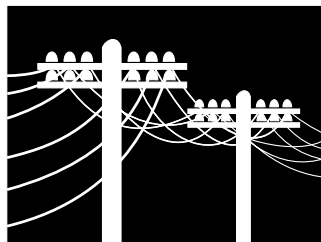
practices in their distribution, pole replacement, expansion and retreatment programs. As a follow-up to Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's report, *The Right Way to Vegetation Management: A Review of Selected Pest Management Policies and Programs on Rights-of-Way* (Pesticides and You, vol. 19, no. 1, 1999), the survey also has a question regarding the utility company's vegetation management policies along its rights-of-way.

**WITH YOUR HELP** we can survey all 3,013 utility companies in the country. Please send the following letter (or use it to write your own) and survey and send it to the Director or Environmental Manager of your local utility company. We will publish the results of the survey in a report that will be out later this year. The report will be disseminated to you, the media, and the utility companies, with a focus on how local utilities are evaluated and where improvement is needed.

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**It will take an active public to push for the adoption of alternatives and a more aggressive regulatory climate to provide improved protection of public health and the environment.**

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Let us know the name of the utility company you mailed to:

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep us in touch with you.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax this slip to Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, 701 E Street SE, Suite 200, Washington DC, 20003, (202) 543-5450 voice, (202) 543-4791 fax or email us at [ncamp@ncamp.org](mailto:ncamp@ncamp.org).

Dear Utility Company Official:

As a consumer, I am increasingly asking questions about the environmental policies and practices of the companies, including utility companies, with whom I do business. In an age of utility deregulation, these questions take on new importance in consumer purchasing decisions.

As a customer of your utility company, I feel that this is a critical time for me to ask your company a series of questions regarding utility pole materials, pole storage, retreatment, and disposal, as well as questions about your company's rights-of-way maintenance program. The National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP), a non-profit public interest organization, has developed the following survey to help me identify your practices and policies.

NCAMP, formed in 1981, was established as a clearinghouse on pesticides, providing the public with information on toxic hazards and safe strategies for pest management. In this context, NCAMP's organizational and individual members have developed a cooperative relationship with companies that are seeking to put in place the safest possible products and management practices.

Following is a three-page survey that we request you complete and return to NCAMP by September 30, 1999. NCAMP will compile your and other utilities' responses and disseminate the information back to you and me with the results.

Thank you for your assistance in completing this survey. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

# UTILITY COMPANY ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES SURVEY

Consumers would like to know how your policies and practices affect the environment. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. We will provide you with the results when they are compiled. Please attach additional information, including policies and guidance materials, where they exist. Thank you for your time.

## **I. Person Completing Survey/Contact Person**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. Service Area**

Square miles of service area \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of pole miles in distribution system \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of utility poles in service area \_\_\_\_\_

## **III. Pole Types**

Please break down by type the total number of utility poles currently in service.

	TOTAL NUMBER OF POLES IN SERVICE BY TYPE				
	<i>Please indicate specific number of <u>in service</u> poles by type in boxes below.</i>				
<b>WOOD POLES</b>	CCA	Pentachlorophenol	Creosote	Other (specify)	Pole Size/Class
Southern yellow pine					
Western red cedar					
Douglas fir					
Other (please specify)					
<b>NON-WOOD POLES</b>					Pole Size/Class
Concrete					
Steel					
Composite					
Other (please specify)					

**IV. Pole Cost**

Please indicate the cost per pole (of the sizes indicated above) for the various types that are purchased.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (wood, CCA); \$\_\_\_\_\_ (wood, penta); \$\_\_\_\_\_ (wood, creosote); \$\_\_\_\_\_ (concrete); \$\_\_\_\_\_ (steel); \$\_\_\_\_\_ composite; \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other).

Has your company performed an economic comparison of types of poles?  yes  no

If yes, summarize results. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**V. Pole Maintenance**

Are poles retreated during their service life:  yes  no

If yes, how often does retreatment take place? \_\_\_\_\_

What materials are used for retreatment? \_\_\_\_\_

Who conducts the retreatment? \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. Pole Storage**

Do you store poles?  yes  no.

If yes, how many poles are typically stored annually on company property (by type). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Disposal/Recycling Methods**

Do you dispose of poles?  yes  no

If yes, please explain the method used for each pole type. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If **no**, please explain what you do with poles (by type) when they are taken out of service. \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have a pole recycling program?  yes  no

If **yes**, please describe the program used for each type of pole. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **VIII. Rights-of-Way Management**

Does your company have a rights-of-way management policy?  yes  no.

If **yes**, could you please send us a copy?

If **no**, is your company developing a policy?  yes  no.

If **yes**, what is the expected date of completion? \_\_\_\_\_

### **IX. Future Plans**

Is your company now considering, or has it decided on, an increase in its use of alternatives to treated wood poles?  yes  no.

If **yes**, toward which product type? \_\_\_\_\_

When will installation begin? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any other future plans you may have regarding changes in pole material, maintenance, storage and disposal practices. *(Please use additional paper, if necessary.)* \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please mail or fax survey and additional information by July 30, 1999 to:  
National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)  
701 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003, (202) 543-5450 voice, (202) 543-4791 fax.  
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Kagan Owens at NCAMP. Thank you.**

## Going Beyond Pesticides

*Should We Be Taking Back the Term “Integrated Pest Management”?*



**Terry Shistar, Ph.D.**

**W**e are constantly facing the problem that as we try to institute alternatives to “spray and pray” pest management systems in our communities, we find our preferred term “integrated pest management” perverted to mean “more pesticides.” The harder we try to take back the term to mean least toxic pest management, the more valuable it becomes as a label for chemical-intensive pest control. I would like to ask whether we really want it.

At the 1998 Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP National Pesticide Forum, Ken Ogwaro, president of Eco-Care International in Bakersfield, CA, said that if we hope to go “beyond pesticides,” then we need to go “beyond pests.” I think he is absolutely right—as long as our efforts focus on new or improved programs based on the “pest” concept, we will be in the position of generals calling for a “limited war.”

### **The Pest Management Wars**

The whole vocabulary of pest management has striking parallels to that of warfare. Pests are enemies; beneficials are allies; crops, etc. are the resources at stake in the war; there are neutral parties as well. We use chemical warfare (pesticides) and biological warfare (bacteria, viruses, and genetically engineered organisms). Some enemies are deemed so bad that we need to resort to genocide.

Was the world at war before our culture imposed the notion of “pest” on it? Many animals remove parasites from themselves and family members, but they don’t try to make

the world a lethal place for fleas and ticks. Some ants may bite animals that threaten their host plants and even remove competing plants around them, but they don’t kill all animals that might browse on their trees or plants that might compete with them.

Many pre-Columbian native American tribes practiced an agriculture that recognized symbiotic relationships among food crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They also harvested wild plants. But they didn’t kill everything that wasn’t food. They didn’t even harvest all the food that they could, recognizing that native plants know the best places to grow and need to reproduce themselves.

Our culture has the arrogance to think that we can define a “good” or “bad” plant or animal based on its (known) usefulness to us. As we take over virtually all of the landscape (with a nominal exception of areas we’ve decided—for now—to enjoy “wild”), we eventually put virtually all organisms in a position where we think we need to make a decision—friend or foe. If an organism is not at least a potential resource we can exploit or an ally in our war on “pests,” then it is judged to be at best

in the way of our development.

This warfare with the rest of the world is occurring within the context of intraspecies, intracultural competition for resources. Not only is our culture interested in protecting our resources from other species, it is also interested in doing so in a way that “locks up” those resources so that anyone who wants

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**The whole vocabulary of pest management has striking parallels to that of warfare. Pests are enemies; beneficials are allies; crops, etc. are the resources at stake in the war... Was the world at war before our culture imposed the notion of “pest” on it?**

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them must pay. Earlier inhabitants of my part of Kansas had bountiful selections of native foods—both plants and animals. The prairies weren't just grass and buffalo. They were prairie turnip, hog peanut, Jerusalem artichoke, and many other edible plants, as well as the animals who shared the bounty with the human inhabitants of the plains. Current inhabitants have replaced the native plants with brome and fescue monocultures for grazing and monocultures of corn, wheat, sorghum, and soybeans—much of which will also go to feed domesticated livestock. You can't just go out and find food any more. You have to work for the system and pay cash for your food.

Generals wage limited wars. They bomb only military targets. When that doesn't work, they bomb power stations. When that doesn't work, they bomb civilians who are "assisting the military." When that doesn't work, they send in ground troops. Eventually, there is pressure to use the really big guns.

Similarly our pest managers may start out with a willingness to use only physical exclusion, sanitation, and other "safe" non-chemical methods of pest management. But as long as we feel a need to "control" or "manage" those pests, the pest managers are going to feel like the general who knows he could win if he was only allowed to drop the big one. Furthermore, as the world becomes further sorted into friends and enemies, with fewer stable ecosystems, we acquire more pests who must be "controlled."

### **Going Beyond Pesticides**

We create pests through our system of agriculture and our ignorance and fear of other living things. How can we go "beyond pesticides" if we continue to see most of the world as "pests"? I don't think we can. Going "beyond pesticides" will require large changes in our agricultural system. It will require each of us to form personal relationships with other organisms.

Ants are not bad. They are essential to many biological communities and ecosystems. However, you may be unhappy about ants in your honey jar. If so, you have a personal problem with those particular ants. You don't need to kill ants because ants are bad; you need to find a way to keep a particular colony out of your honey jar.

It is commonplace to call a weed "a plant in the wrong place." What is the proper place of a dandelion? I don't know. I know that dandelions are indicators of compacted soil—that they will grow there, and by growing there loosen the soil. I know that dandelion flowers provide valuable early spring nectar for insects and beautiful yellow patterns in my lawn. I know that dandelion seed heads are great fun for small

children and attract goldfinches to provide more yellow to my lawn. I know that dandelion leaves are valuable as salad greens and a potherb. I know that the roots are used as a coffee substitute and are a valuable medicine for detoxifying the body after chemical exposures. But I can't tell you the proper place for a dandelion. The dandelion itself works that out with its neighbors.

Thus, our educational task is a huge one. It goes in the face of all the lies that our culture tells us—that we are here to rule the world, that the world belongs to us, and that other species that get in our way are just pests. In short, we need to make peace with the world. I have a feeling that we won't learn to make peace among ourselves until we learn how to make peace with the other inhabitants of the world.

Organic agriculture provides a valuable model, but not the organic agriculture of "acceptable inputs." The organic agriculture that should be our model is the old fashioned organic agriculture of small-scale diversified farms that were integrated into the local ecosystem. These organic farmers don't focus on botanical or bacteriological pesticides to "control" pests. They build the soil to grow healthy plants, grow within the limits of the local ecology, and search for a diversified mixture that increases ecological and economic stability. They even incorporate wild plants as valued members of the community.

In the context of homes and workplaces, this means asking, "How can I fit into this ecosystem?" rather than "How can I mold this place to my desires?" If you need a lawn, you shouldn't live in Phoenix. If you can't stand insects, then Florida isn't for you.

So my answer to the question in the title of this piece is this. Don't call it "integrated pest management" anymore. The term has been co-opted, anyway. Call it "dealing with people's problems" or something similar, because the problem is always a particular person's relationship to other members of the ecological community.

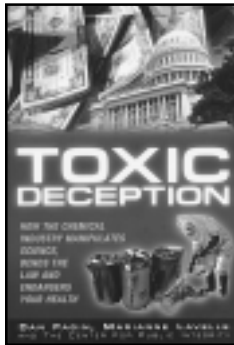
*Terry is a Ph.D. in Systematics and Ecology from the University of Kansas, where she teaches seminars in hazardous materials regulation and risk assessment. Terry has been a hands-on member of the Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP board of directors since 1984, currently serving as Secretary, having served in the past as the organization's President. She is a regular author of and tireless contributor to Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, comments on regulatory issues and served as lead author of Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's report Unnecessary Risks: The Benefit Side of the Pesticide Risk Benefit Equation (1992) and co-author of Poison Poles: Their Toxic Trail and the Safer Alternatives, among many other publications.*

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**Going "beyond pesticides" will require large changes in our agricultural system. It will require each of us to form personal relationships with other organisms.**

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## Toxic Deception: How the Chemical Industry Manipulates Science, Bends the Law and Endangers Your Health, Second Edition



Dan Fagin and Marianne Lavelle and the Center for Public Integrity. (Common Courage Press, Monroe, ME, 1999).

The release of a second, soft-cover edition of

*Toxic Deception* reestablishes our lack of knowledge of the toxicity of many chemicals commonly used in every day life. Investigative reporters Fagin and Lavelle combine their talents with the Center for Public Integrity to bring the public's attention to the government's failure to protect us from the hazards of industrial chemical used.

*Toxic Deception* shows how the chemical industry has misled the public and uses loopholes to obtain and maintain certification of many commonly used chemicals. The authors use the herbicides alachlor and atrazine, formaldehyde-based building materials, and the dry cleaning agent perchlorethylene or "perc" as examples of how chemical manufacturers have used certain strategies to secure their interests. The authors state that the chemical industry manipulates the public by maintaining that we do not know how hazardous particular chemicals are, and thus, the chemical industry says, without knowing for sure, it is unfair to regulate them. By releasing studies performed and funded by industry labs and attacking scientists with contradicting results both professionally and personally, the chemical industry successfully controls the science behind the

chemicals, says *Toxic Deception*. And by using political pressure and monopolizing advisory boards, the industry keeps tight control over the regulation of chemicals, say the authors.

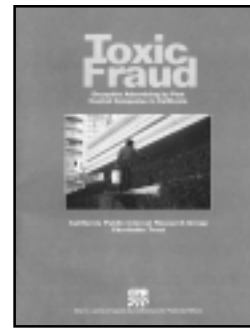
Fagin and Lavelle have also offered some suggestions for improving the situation. These include reforming the chemical testing process to ensure unbiased funding and results, demanding absolute certainty that no harm will occur from chemicals by requiring full public disclosure of all pesticide "inert" ingredients, arming consumers with the facts, and examining non-toxic alternatives and funding their adoption.

The second edition of *Toxic Deception* also includes a new final chapter that outlines recent developments in pesticide policy, including the implementation of the *Food Quality Protection Act* and establishment of the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC). One of the first actions EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs decided to take in implementing FQPA was to reevaluate many organophosphate pesticides. TRAC was designed to draw up guidelines aimed at ensuring FQPA was implemented in a reasonable manner consistent with sound science. But almost two years later, "TRAC is still meeting, and the EPA still hasn't moved against the organophosphates," say the authors. The new chapter also discusses scientific developments in genetically engineered plants and the new era of biotech agriculture. *For a copy, send \$21 ppd to Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, 701 E Street, SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20003, 202-543-5450.*

## Toxic Fraud: Deceptive Advertising by Pest Control Companies in California

Zev Ross, Toxics Policy Advocate (CALPIRG Charitable Trust, San Francisco, CA, 1998).

Despite federal laws prohibiting pest control companies from using the word



"safe" in their advertisements when referring to a registered pesticide, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), as reported in

their recent study, *Toxic Fraud*, has found blatant examples of illegal advertising claims of pesticide and environmental safety. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs publicly declares that pesticides "are not safe" but at the same time does not enforce laws in effect, says the report. For example, a federal investigation by the US Government Accounting Office found that EPA and the Federal Trade Commission do not adequately protect consumers from misleading advertising by failing to enforce the laws designed to do so. This study is similar to one done by Maryland Public Interest Research Group (MaryPIRG) for Maryland pest control companies (see *PAY Vol. 18, no. 3, 1998*).

CALPIRG found 350 statewide advertisements for pesticide companies that mislead the public with claims of human and environmental safety. These ads were typically found in phone books, due to advertisers wanting to catch the consumer's eye while using a small area of space, says the study. One ad that is depicted in the report claims their company is "chemical free" and that "no toxic residues to harm people/pets/environment" results. A phone call revealed that this company uses Vikane, an extremely toxic pesticide, and that it offers no non-toxic alternatives. In the report, CALPIRG recommends that companies currently using deceptive ads be required to notify present and potential customers of the real dangers posed by pesticide use. *For a copy of the report, contact Zev Ross, Toxics Policy Advocate, CALPIRG Charitable Trust, 415-292-1487 or download the report from [www.pirg.org/calpirg](http://www.pirg.org/calpirg).*

# THANK YOU

## 17th National Pesticide Forum Sponsors!

Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP and Pesticide Watch Education Fund joined forces for the second year in a row to make the 17th National Pesticide Forum and the 8th Annual California Pesticide Organizing Conference, *Beyond Pesticides: Pollution Prevention Is the Cure*, a huge success!

This year's conference was held May 14 - 16 at La Casa de Maria Retreat & Conference Center in Santa Barbara, California. We would like to thank Pesticide Watch staff, all conference attendees, La Casa de Maria and the generous donations of the conference sponsors whose support allowed this event to transpire. Thank you!

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Organically Grown Co-op  
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**Thanks to the following sponsors, we were able to serve delicious organic food and drinks throughout the conference.**

Chartrand Imports • Grain Place Foods • Horizon Organic Dairy • Isla Vista Co-op • Lazy Acres • Odwalla • Organic Valley CROPP Cooperative • Organic Wine Company • Rainbow Grocery • Roseland Organic Farms • Royal Blue Organics • Shepard's Farm • Smuckers Quality Beverages/Knudsen • Stonyfield Farm, Inc. • Straus Family Creamery • The Apple Farm • Trader Joe's • Traditional Medicinals • Walnut Acres • Wholesome Foods • Wolaver's Certified Organic Ales

# BEYOND PESTICIDES/NCAMP MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

- YES, make me a member of Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP (includes subscription to *Pesticides & You*).**
- \$25 Individual     \$30 Family     \$50 Public Interest Organizations     \$15 Limited Income
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- YES, I'd like to receive Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP's monthly *Technical Report*. \$20 with membership or subscription.**
- If outside the United States, please add \$10.00 each for memberships and subscriptions.

## R E S O U R C E S

### T-Shirts

- "Pollution Prevention Is the Cure." full color graphic on 100% natural organic cotton Beneficial-T's by Patagonia™ T-shirt. \$18 each; two for \$30.
- "Speak to the Earth, and It Shall Teach Thee." In green, blue and peach on 100% natural organic cotton. \$15 each; two for \$25.
- Tell the world that FREEDOM FROM PESTICIDES IS EVERY BODY'S RIGHT in teal, purple, and yellow. On 100% natural organic cotton. \$15 each; two for \$25.

### Bumper Sticker

- "Is Your Lawn Toxic Green?" White letters on green background.
- FREEDOM FROM PESTICIDES IS EVERY BODY'S RIGHT. White letters on blue. Stickers \$2.00 each (\$.50 each when ordering 100+)

### Books

- A Failure to Protect*. Landmark study of federal government pesticide use and pest management practices. \$23.00. *Summary and Overview* \$5.00.
- The Chemical-Free Lawn: The newest varieties and techniques to grow lush, hardy grass with no pesticides no herbicides, no chemical fertilizers.* By Warren Schultz. Published by Rodale Press. \$17.95 (14.95 + \$3.00 shipping).
- Unnecessary Risks: The Benefit Side of the Risk-Benefit Equation.* Understand how the EPA's Risk-Benefit Analyses falsely assume the need for high-risk pesticides. Explains how "benefits" are inflated, how alternatives might be assessed, and the public's right to ask more from its regulators. \$10.00.
- Safety at Home: A Guide to the Hazards of Lawn and Garden Pesticides and Safer Ways to Manage Pests.* Learn more about: the toxicity of common pesticides; non-toxic lawn care; why current laws offer inadequate protection. \$11.00
- Voices for Pesticide Reform: The Case for Safe Practices and Sound Policy.* New study documenting stories of tragic pesticide poisoning and contamination, and successfully used alternatives that avoid toxic chemicals. \$20.00
- Poison Poles: Their Toxic Trail and the Safer Alternatives.* New study on largest group of pesticides, wood preservatives, and contamination associated with treated wood utility poles, and the availability of alternatives. \$22.00
- Toxic Deception.* By Dan Fagin, Marianne Lavelle and Center for Public Integrity. Published by Common Courage Press. \$21.00

### Back Issues

- Back issues of *Pesticides and You* \$2.00 each
- Back issues of *Technical Reports* \$1.00 each

### Brochures (\$2.00 each; bulk discounts available)

- Pest Control Without Toxic Chemicals
- Least Toxic Control of Lawn Pests
- Agriculture: Soil Erosion, Pesticides, Sustainability
- Organic Gardening: Sowing the Seeds of Safety
- Estrogenic Pesticides
- Pesticides and Your Fruits and Vegetables
- Pesticides: Are you being poisoned without your knowledge?
- Pesticides in Our Homes and Schools

### Testimony

- Children & Pesticides, 9/13/90 \$4.00
- Lawn Care Chemicals, 5/9/91 \$4.00
- FIFRA - Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 6/8/93 \$4.00
- Food Safety, 8/2/93 \$3.00
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### Other

- Getting Pesticides Out of Food and Food Production \$5.00
- NCAMP's Pesticide Chemical FactSheets; individual: \$2.00, book: \$20.00
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# Thank you Horizon for getting the word out on Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP



Over the past several months, Horizon Organic Dairy has used space on its milk cartons to tell people how to join Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP and support our program for good health and a clean environment. Let's all raise out milk glasses to Horizon.

## Are You Doing Your Earth Share?

### SUPPORT BEYOND PESTICIDES/NCAMP THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAMS



You can build support for pesticide reform by helping Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP and other environmental groups become involved in your workplace giving campaign. There are two ways you can help:

*First*, if you are an employee of the federal government or a company that includes Earth Share member groups in its workplace giving plan, indicate that you would like to make a contribution to Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP by checking the appropriate box. If you are a federal employee, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP is number 0923 in the Combined Federal Campaign.

*Second*, if environmental groups are not currently included in your workplace giving program — or your workplace has no giving campaign at all — urge your employer to allow Earth Share to expand their charitable options. Earth Share is a charitable federation of over forty acclaimed environmental groups, including Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP. Earth Share allows companies to expand their traditional payroll deduction charity drives to include environmental groups. Please consider trying to get Earth Share into your workplace. Contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP to work with you. Thank you.

To learn more about Earth Share and workplace giving campaigns, call Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP at (202) 543-5450.

### Pesticides and You

Beyond Pesticides/  
National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides  
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Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-5450

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