



BEYOND PESTICIDES

701 E Street, SE ■ Washington DC 20003
202-543-5450 phone ■ 202-543-4791 fax
info@beyondpesticides.org ■ www.beyondpesticides.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jay Feldman, Garret White
202-543-5450

jfeldman@beyondpesticides.org

gwhite@beyondpesticides.org

Talks and Workshops from *Organic Neighborhoods* Conference Released

Washington, DC, May 18, 2018 - Released today, videos from this year's 36th National Pesticide Forum, *Organic Neighborhoods: For healthy children, families, and ecology*, feature a wide range of speakers, from those conducting research to managing land with organic practices. Beyond Pesticides produces these videos as a tool for communities educating on the adverse effects of pesticides and working to adopt organic practices that eliminate toxic pesticide use. The Forum brings people together to share the latest science, policies, and practices to protect communities from toxic pesticide use.

The Forum was convened in April by Beyond Pesticides, in collaboration with the University of California Irvine (UCI) Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and Non-Toxic Irvine. Co-sponsors of the Forum included: Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Audubon California, Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR), Center for Regenerative Agriculture, The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE), Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN), EcoFarm, Moms Across America, Moms Advocating Sustainability, Parents for a Safer Environment, Poison Free Malibu, Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants.

"The Forum takes a positive approach in showcasing the opportunities to adopt organic practices that eliminate the need for toxic pesticides," according to Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides. "Change is emanating from communities and businesses across the country because federal and, too often, state governments are not functioning as they should for the common good," he continued.

The collection of the Forum's videos features 25 sessions on topics ranging from the effects of pesticides on children, farmworkers, and pollinators to successful efforts to change local policy and practices governing the management of parks and playing fields, organic land management, to managed goat grazing for weed management.

The videos add to Beyond Pesticides' video library, the most extensive collection on pesticides and alternatives in the country. Beyond Pesticides believes that the need for these videos is crucial as the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reverses science-based regulatory decisions—raising alarm about the need for public health and environmental protections from toxic pesticide exposure and a call to action.

Featured speakers: Keynote speaker, Carey Gillam, reporter and author of *Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science*, cites questionable research practices by Monsanto, inappropriate ties to a top EPA officials, and the “ghostwriting” of “independent” research published in a scientific journal; UCI Professor Bruce Blumberg, PhD, the author of the new book, *The Obesogen Effect: Why We Eat Less and Exercise More but Still Struggle to Lose Weight*, talks about the effect of endocrine disruptors; Youth in farmworker families describe their firsthand experiences working in agricultural fields where toxic pesticide exposure is a daily occurrence; UC Berkeley professor Tyrone Hayes, PhD, provides the history of a chemical company’s attack on emerging science that has uncovered devastating effects on the ecosystem; Long-time organic farmer, Steve Sprinkle, and horticulturalist, Chip Osborne, team up and provide the details on managing soil biology to nurture microbial life and cycle nutrients for plant health and regional resiliency; and, Goat herder Johnny Gonzales, of Environmental Land Management, talks about goat grazing for invasives and fire mitigation.

The videos can be accessed on [Beyond Pesticides YouTube channel](#). For more information on the Beyond Pesticides Forum, go to [the Forum webpage](#).

For general information on Beyond Pesticides, go to www.beyondpesticides.org.

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