



# Pennsylvania

## PESTICIDE HIGHLIGHTS

For Private Pesticide Applicators

November 1997

### Compliance Efforts Near 100%

Private applicators have proceeded through calendar year 1997 with few infractions of the pesticide law. When necessary, official enforcement actions are taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture under authority of the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act.

As of October 17, 1997, only one fine was assessed to a private applicator. The civil penalty was assessed for causing unwanted residues on the properties of others. The fine cost the farm manager \$1,000 because he allowed his restricted use herbicide to drift onto several properties causing damage to trees and ornamentals.

The other type of official action taken during this period was warning letters. Four warnings were sent to greenhouse operations for failing to comply with Worker Protection Standard requirements. These greenhouses did not have available all the decontamination equipment necessary for their employees. The only other warning was issued to a farm manager for causing low level drift of a general use herbicide outside of the target application site.

**Written by:** Joseph Uram, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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### Where to Get Recertification Meeting Information, Etc.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is pleased to announce a new statewide service to aid certified applicators in locating open meetings approved for pesticide recertification credits. These services are provided by the PDA in cooperation with the Penn State University Offices of Pesticide Education and Telecommunications.

#### **FAXBACK System: 814-865-1636**

This service will provide you with a printed listing of all the open Pesticide Update Meetings, that have been approved by the PDA, for the cost of the phone call. The FAXBACK system received great reviews during the pilot project for ease of access and usability of the information.

To use the FAXBACK system, use the phone on the fax to dial 814-865-1636. You will be welcomed to the PSU Fax-on-Demand System, then PRESS "1" to select Pesticide Information. The voice prompt will then ask you to select the PDA region you are interested in "1 through 7" or "8" for out-of-state meetings and correspondence

courses. After entering your choice, the voice prompt will then tell you to press the start button on your fax machine. The fax will be on its way to you.

#### **Phone System: 1-800-Penn-IPM (736-6476)**

This service is available free of charge. You must call from a touch tone phone or be able to switch to touch tone from pulse dialing after you connect to the system. Listen for the voice prompt and select "1" for Pesticide Information. The next voice prompt will ask you to select the region number "1 through 7" or "8" for out-of-state that you would like information for. The voice prompt will then ask you to select the category you are interested in, e.g., 00=Core, 01--to--25. Check your license for the categories you need. A listing of all the meetings scheduled for that category will be read in alphabetical order by county and date. The reading will include county, date, number of credits offered, and a contact phone number. You may press "#" at any time to change the

(See *Info* on bottom of page 4)

## National Pesticide Telecommunications Network: A Toll-Free and Internet Accessible Pesticide Information Service

Have you ever wanted a source of objective pesticide information or a place to refer your clients? Have you ever wondered or been asked the following questions: Is it dangerous to use pesticides for insect control if I am pregnant or have small children? What is the persistence of the chemicals used on my lawn for weed control? Will they contaminate my well? Could this old bottle of liquid I found in the garbage be a pesticide? If you have had these questions and longed for a place to call, the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) may be a useful resource for you.

NPTN is a toll-free information service--available to any caller in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands--sponsored cooperatively by the Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. NPTN provides objective, science-based information about a wide variety of pesticide-related subjects including: pesticide products, pesticide poisonings, toxicology, and environmental chemistry.

NPTN is open to questions from the public and professionals. It is staffed by highly qualified and trained pesticide specialists who have the toxicology and environmental chemistry training needed to provide knowledgeable answers to questions about pesticides. Pesticide specialists can help callers interpret and understand toxicology and environmental chemistry information about pesticides.

NPTN receives more than 2,000 calls per month. Most callers are homeowners concerned about their family's health when pesticides are being used in and around their home (e.g. for control of ants, termites, fleas, or garden

and lawn pests). NPTN can provide information on the pesticides used in these situations and methods to reduce exposure. While NPTN does not make recommendations about which pesticides to use for control of pests, NPTN can direct callers to local resources for products available in their area.

If people call with pesticide emergencies, NPTN can connect them directly with the Oregon Poison Control Center or the National Animal Poison Control Center. NPTN can also direct callers for pesticide incident investigations, safety practices, clean-up and disposal, and laboratory analysis.

NPTN uses a variety of information sources such as EPA documents, USDA Cooperative Extension publications, the scientific literature, and a pesticide product database. Information is available at no-cost over the phone and non-copyrighted materials can be mailed or faxed for a nominal fee. Information is also available through the NPTN World Wide Web site at:

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>

NPTN can be reached 6:30 am to 4:30 pm **Pacific time** (9:30 am to 7:30 pm Eastern time), seven days a week, excluding holidays. Telephone: 1-800-858-7378. Fax: 1-541-737-0761. E-mail: [nptn@ace.orst.edu](mailto:nptn@ace.orst.edu). Written requests can be mailed to: NPTN, Oregon State University, 333 Weniger, Corvallis, OR 97331-6502.

**Written by:** Terry L. Miller, Extension Pesticide Coordinator and Director, National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

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## Three Men Sentenced For Illegally Using Methyl Parathion

Three men were sentenced for violating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for illegal possession of the insecticide methyl parathion and illegal use of methyl parathion indoors. Methyl parathion is only approved for outdoor agricultural use in uninhabitable fields. When applied indoors, methyl parathion does not readily degrade. This insecticide is toxic to the nervous system and human exposure to it can cause vomiting, headache, diarrhea, convulsions, coma, and even death.

Paul F. Walls, Sr. of Moss Point, Mississippi was sentenced on July 7 in U.S. District Court in Biloxi, MS to six years and six months in prison for his conviction on 45 counts of spraying methyl parathion without a license and three counts of illegally distributing methyl parathion. **This sentence is the longest U.S. federal prison term ever for an environmental crime.** Walls did not possess a commercial pesticide applicator license for Pascagoula, MS, and had been denied permission for application by a Mississippi State court. In addition, Dock Eatman, Sr.,

also of Moss Point, received a sentence of five years and three months for his conviction on 21 counts of illegal pesticide application.

In a different case, Lutellis Kilgore of Elyria, Ohio was sentenced to 37 months in prison and two years of supervised release on Sept. 8 in U.S. District Court for the

Northern District of Ohio. As part of his plea, Kilgore admitted to illegally applying the insecticide methyl parathion to over 60 properties in Lorain and Elyria, Ohio. He is not a

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**Methyl parathion is only approved for outdoor agricultural use in uninhabitable fields.**

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certified methyl parathion applicator. Kilgore's actions led to a \$20 million publicly-funded cleanup of the affected residences by EPA, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Health Departments of both Lorain and Elyria.

EPA's Criminal Investigation Division investigated both cases. In the Walls case, the FBI and authorities from the State of Mississippi assisted the EPA.

The information for this article was taken from the U.S. EPA HQ Press Releases of July 11 (R-100) and September 19, 1997 (R-135).

## PA Department of Agriculture Announces CHEMSWEEP Program for 1998

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has announced the counties eligible this year for the CHEMSWEEP waste pesticide collection program: Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Greene, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Philadelphia, Pike, Washington, and Wayne. With the collection of pesticides in these eleven counties, the entire Commonwealth will have had a chance to participate in this program.

In addition, nine counties have been selected for a second round of outreach and collections: Bedford, Chester, Fulton, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Snyder, Union, and Westmoreland.

Already in the seventh year of the program, more than 646,000 lbs. of waste pesticides have been collected from 56 counties participating in this worthwhile program. Based on the response to this second round of collections, PDA will either continue or terminate the current CHEMSWEEP program.

To participate in this program, any user of pesticides who has waste products to dispose of must obtain an application (inventory form) available by contacting the appropriate Penn State Cooperation Extension Office or

regional office of the PA Department of Agriculture. The completed form must be returned to the PA Department of Agriculture by December 31, 1997. A licensed hazardous waste hauler will collect the waste pesticides during the spring of 1998.

Eligibility for the program is not limited to farmers. Any user of pesticides, including mushroom growers, nurseries, greenhouses, golf courses, Christmas tree growers, retired farmers, homeowners and other pest control operators can participate in this program. If you

are not located in the counties listed above and have waste pesticides to dispose of, contact the Department of Agriculture at the number listed below.

### Eligibility for the program is not limited to farmers.

For more information about the program, contact David Bingaman at the PA Department of Agriculture at (717) 772-5214, or your regional office of the Department of Agriculture, or the appropriate Penn State Cooperation Extension office in your county.

**Written by:** John W. Pari, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

## Assessing the Impact of Pesticides on Pennsylvania Agriculture

**im·pact** (îm´pàkt´) *noun*

1. The striking of one body against another; collision.
2. The force or impetus transmitted by a collision.
3. The effect or impression of one thing on another.
4. The power of making a strong, immediate impression.

**pes·ti·cide** (pès´tî-sîd´) *noun*

A chemical used to kill pests, especially insects.

When people see the words “PESTICIDE” and “IMPACT” together, most people have negative thoughts. They think about:

*Pesticide impact on groundwater quality, or  
The impact of pesticides on wildlife.*

Few people would think about phrases like:

*Pesticide impact on farm profitability,  
Positive impact of pesticides on fruit quality, or  
Impact of pesticides in reduced tillage for erosion control.*

The Pennsylvania State University Pesticide Impact Assessment program generates information on the benefits of pesticides to Pennsylvania agriculture. Pesticide use data are collected primarily through grower surveys. Many of these surveys are done in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Data from these surveys are used to answer questions by the federal government about what kind of impact the loss of a certain pesticide would have on the profitability of crop production in Pennsylvania. The goal of the program is to “*tell the growers side of the story*” when a registered

pesticide used extensively in Pennsylvania faces cancellation.

Also, the program tracks other production practices utilized in Pennsylvania such as Integrated Pest Management techniques, fertility management, crop rotation, and grower decision making. This information will demonstrate and/or improve the extension efforts within the state.

*How can I help tell the grower’s side of the impact story?*

The most important way that a pesticide applicator can help to insure that the positive side of the impact story is told is to **respond** to grower survey’s executed by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. This service collects information on all areas of agriculture in Pennsylvania and works in cooperation with the Penn State University Pesticide Impact Assessment program. All respondent answers to survey questions are confidential. Responses will never be revealed in a way that can identify the respondent.

**Written by:** Bill Hoffman, Penn State Pesticide Impact Assessment Coordinator

## Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program 1997 Summary

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) collected 33,895 plastic pesticide containers for recycling in three phases during 1997: Phase I (May to July) - 25,908 containers were collected from 18 counties; Phase II (August) - 7,432 containers from 12 counties; and Phase III (Oct. to Nov.) - 555 containers from 2 counties.

Pesticide containers are collected for recycling from private and commercial applicators in an effort to prevent groundwater or air contamination from burying or burning of used containers. Recycling also reduces the use of petroleum products used in making plastics.

Applicators prepared containers for processing by triple rinsing all pesticide residue from the inside and outside of each container after use, removing all labels and plastic sleeves, and discarding caps, which are made from non-recyclable plastic. Cleaned containers were brought to specified collection sites and inspected by PDA personnel. Accepted containers were stored in 45' trailers at various sites until processed. The processing (known as granulating) was performed by USAgRecycling of Pasadena, Texas; containers were ground into small chips (granules), bagged, and later melted down to produce fence posts, pallets, and new pesticide containers.

PDA makes available free instructions and specialized hose nozzles for rinsing containers. If rinsed properly, they were accepted for recycling. Rejected containers were returned to the applicators to be re-cleaned or properly disposed of by the applicators.

Many agri-businesses participated in the recycling program by serving as collection sites and, in some cases, providing space for storage trailers. The cooperation of the businesses in Table 1 were vital to the program's success in 1997.

A total of 24 counties participated in the 1997 Pesticide Container Recycling Program. The majority of containers were collected from Adams (9,137) and Cumberland (4,445) counties, although 10 counties produced over 1,000 containers (Table 2).

**Table 2. Number of Containers Collected by County**

County	# Containers	County	# Containers
Adams	9,137	Lancaster	2,557
Berks	1,117	Lebanon	358
Blair	451	Lehigh	154
Centre	1,733	Lycoming	583
Chester	80	Mifflin	1,401
Columbia	660	Northampton	534
Cumberland	4,445	Northumberland	2,223
Dauphin	1,080	Perry	772
Franklin	2,835	Schuylkill	111
Huntingdon	299	Snyder	270
Juniata	647	Union	953
Lackawanna	13	York	1,482
<b>1997 Total = 33,895 Containers Recycled</b>			

Plastic pesticide container recycling benefits PA farm managers and the general public in many ways:

- Rinsing all pesticide into their spray tank, farm managers get maximum product for their money.
- Recycled containers reduce unsightly clutter & provide for needed landfill space.
- Recycled containers do not contaminate the air or groundwater by being burned or buried.

If you would like more information on the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, contact David Bingaman at the PA Department of Agriculture at (717)-772-5214, or your regional office of the Department of Agriculture, or the appropriate Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.

**Written by:** Roger Coup, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

**Table 1. Cooperating Businesses in the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program.**

LESCO, Inc. (Moosic, Lancaster, Mechanisburg)	D.E. Horn (Red Lion)	Gideon King (White Horse)	Annlick Farm Supply, Inc. (Port Royal)
Helena Chemical (Shrewsbury, Mifflinville, Arendtsville, Warriors Mark)	Adams Co. Nursery	West Perry Farm Service (Blain)	AG Resources (Turbotville)
Andgrow/Agway (East Berlin, Newville, Culberston)	Chester Horst (Zullinger)	Moyer & Son, Inc. (Reading, Honey Brook)	Jarzinko's Mill and Hardware (Ringtown)
Agway (Winfield, Pleasant Gap, Mill Hill, Curryville, Belleville, Mifflin, Leesport)	George Seiple & Son (Easton)	Service Feed and Supply (Delta)	Martin's Feed and Fertilizer, Inc. (Coburn)
Keifer's Mill (Hegins)	Ben Landis (Strasburg)	Ag. Com (Gettysburg)	Upper Dauphin Grain Center (Elizabethtown)
Reading Bone/Agway (Bangor, Coplay)	Henry Hoover, Inc. (Ephrata)	Agronomy, Inc. (Mercersburg)	Ivan Lauver & Son, Inc. (Mt. Pleasant Mills)
Hostettler, Inc. (Hanover)	G & G Distributors (Manheim)	CV Coop (Shippensburg)	Rohrbach's Farm Market (Catawissa)
	N O. Bonsall & Sons (Millerstown)	Little Britain Agri Supply (Quarryville)	
	Union Mill (Belleville)	Martin's Ag Service (New Holland)	
	Anthony's Mill (Strausstown)	Jim Patches (Lebanon)	
	Kepner Farm Supply (Muncy)	Snyder's Mill (Greenbrier)	
	Kreamer Feed Store (Kreamer)		

(Info cont from page 1)

category or region. Have a pencil and paper or a tape recorder to note meetings that interest you, or simply use the FAXBACK system.

### Internet Web Site

The Pesticide Education Program at Penn State now has a web site on the Internet. Our address is

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/pested/index.html>

One can find out when core (and all the other categories) recertification meetings will be held and when pesticide applicator certification examinations will be held. In addition, we have most of the Agrichemical Fact Sheets on-line, a section of various articles of interest, and will be putting the newsletters on-line. Please visit the site soon.

## Major Issues in the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996

Congress unanimously passed landmark pesticide food safety legislation--the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996--which was supported by the Administration and a broad coalition of environmental, public health, agricultural, and industry groups. EPA regulates pesticides under two major federal statutes: the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. (FFDCA) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) The new law amends both statutes to establish a more consistent, protective regulatory scheme, grounded in sound science.

Under FFDCA, some of the major issues include the following. Health-Based Safety Standard for Pesticide Residues in Food: This new law establishes a strong, health-based safety standard for pesticide residues in all

foods using "a reasonable certainty of no harm" as the general safety standard. This single, health-based standard eliminates previous problems posed by multiple standards for pesticides in raw and processed foods. The EPA is required to consider non-occupational sources of exposure, including drinking water and exposure to other pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity when setting tolerances. Tolerance Evaluation and Reevaluation: The EPA will be required to consider additional types of data for setting tolerances as scientific understanding of potential cumulative and aggregate effects advances. In addition, all existing tolerances must be reviewed within 10 years to ensure they meet the requirements of the new health-based safety standard. Special Provisions for Infants and Children: The new law requires an explicit determination that tolerances are safe for children by providing an additional safety factor up to ten-fold, if necessary, to account for uncertainty in data relative to children. The law requires consideration of

children's special sensitivity and exposure to pesticide chemicals. Consumer "Right to Know" Provisions: This new law requires EPA to publish a consumer-friendly pamphlet for public display in grocery stores. The pamphlet will contain information on the risks and benefits of pesticides, any tolerances established using benefits considerations, and recommendations for reducing exposure to pesticides.

Some of the major issues under FIFRA include the following. Periodic Review of Pesticide Registrations:

The new law ensures that all pesticides continue to meet up-to-date standards for safety testing, public health, and environmental protection on a 15-year cycle. Minor Use Pesticides: The new law establishes minor use programs within EPA and USDA to

foster coordination on minor use regulations and policy, and establishes a revolving grant fund program to support development of data necessary to register minor use pesticides. The law encourages minor use registrations through extensions for submitting pesticide residue data, extensions for exclusive use of data, flexibility to waive certain data requirements, and requiring EPA to expedite review of minor use applications. Registration of Safer Pesticides: The new law will expedite the review of safer pesticides to help them reach the market sooner and replace older and potentially more risky chemicals.

The information in this article was taken from *Major Issues in the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996* and *Highlights of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996* both written by the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, dated August 1996.

**This new law establishes a strong, health-based safety standard for pesticide residues in all foods using "a reasonable certainty of no harm" as the general safety standard.**

## Crops Survey to Assess IPM Implementation in Pennsylvania

USDA has challenged American agriculture to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems on 70% of our cropland acreage by the year 2000. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the College of Agricultural Sciences at The Pennsylvania State University are cooperating with their sister institutions in both Maryland and Virginia to track this effort on a regular basis. The cropping practices on corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and small grains, four major crops common to each state, will be monitored.

In order to get an accurate picture of IPM implementation in Pennsylvania, a survey requesting information on cropping practices influencing pest

populations will be conducted at pesticide recertification credit meetings concerning these crops. Surveys should not take more than 1/2 hour to complete and responses will be anonymous.

**...the survey has been assigned a recertification number and 1 core credit toward the renewal of pesticide certification.**

To show appreciation for growers' time and cooperation, the survey has been assigned a recertification number and 1 core credit toward the renewal of pesticide certification. After the surveys are collected, additional information/discussion will emphasize the importance of IPM alternatives as a part of the educational core credit requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee B. Bentz, IPM Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-5204.

## Study Shows Houseflies Capable of Carrying Ulcer Bug

The common housefly may be a reservoir for **Helicobacter pylori** the bacterium responsible for some types of ulcers and associated with stomach cancer.

This finding is reported by researchers at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Boston, Mass., in a recent issue of the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. This study is the first report of **H. pylori** colonization of houseflies.

In the study, the researchers exposed groups of adult houseflies to either a culture of the bacteria or a sterile control plate. After exposure, flies were removed from both the sample and the control group. They were tested at six-hour intervals for the presence of the bacteria on their skin, in their digestive tract and in their excretions.

The researchers found the bacteria present on the skin of the exposed flies for up to 12 hours. In addition, the exposed flies had bacteria in their gut and their excretions for up to 30 hours after exposure. The control group had no presence of the bacteria.

Dr. Peter Grubel, one of the authors of the study, said his team is proposing that flies acquire **H. pylori** from

crawling on human excrement then crawl on and contaminate human food.

**H. pylori** has the unusual ability to live in the harsh acidic environment of the stomach. In most people, it causes no disease, but in the unlucky few it causes duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer and gastric cancer.

The organism lives in the stomachs of most people around the world, although in developed countries, less

**In most people, it causes no disease, but in the unlucky few it causes duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer and gastric cancer.**

than 50 percent are infected. In developing countries, infection is almost universal among adults, with 50 percent becoming infected by five years of age. A key factor in these differences may be the use of indoor plumbing in developed countries, according to Grubel.

He warned that the research only proves that the housefly is capable of carrying the bacterium, and that no definite proof exists that it actually serves as a vector. Future studies will focus on whether infected flies can actually pass the infection on, and also determine if **H. pylori** is present in flies in the wild. (P. C. Aug, 97)

**Reprinted from:** Pesticides Coordinator Report, Vol. XX, October 1997.

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## Sprayer Rinse System Saves Time and Protects Water Quality

For about \$300-\$400 in parts, a tank rinsing system can be installed on most sprayers. This allows them to be cleaned in the field and immediately utilize rinse water on the crop just sprayed. The rinse system also saves a trip back to the farm or nurse tank for rinse water and eliminates the temptation to dump the rinsate anywhere just to get rid of it. This practice saves time and reduces the risk of ground and surface water contamination. The main parts needed are a 30-gallon or larger tank for clean water, one or more tank rinsing nozzles, hoses, clamps,

and ball valves. In most cases, the existing pump on the sprayer can be used to pressurize the rinse system.

For more information request "Agrichemical Fact Sheet #9, Options for In-Field Pesticide Sprayer Rinsing and Clean Water Utilization," from your local cooperative extension office. This fact sheet is also on the Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University home page--just click on Fact Sheets. The web page address is: <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/pested/index.html>

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College of Agricultural Sciences  
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University Park, PA 16802-4506  
Phone (814) 863-0263

Bureau of Plant Industry  
PA Department of Agriculture  
2301 N. Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408  
Phone (717) 783-4843

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