

Pesticides in the News

We can't afford to wait any longer to speak up for beneficial uses of pesticides. Two August court decisions made it clear that if we fail to communicate the importance of pesticides, we could lose them forever.

Earlier this month, a federal court ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revoke both the residue "tolerances", the regulatory term for amounts of pesticide residue allowed on food, of chlorpyrifos and all uses of the pesticide within 60 days.

During the Obama administration, EPA took steps to ban chlorpyrifos after health assessments showed current uses posed dietary and drinking water risks to humans. Former EPA Administrator Pruitt reversed the proposed ban in March 2017 on the grounds that the science used to support the action was unsound.

The Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit referenced the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, stating that EPA must ban the allowance of a pesticide on food if it finds harm from exposure. EPA could not prove no harm would be caused by the pesticide, leading to the court's decision.

In another highly publicized case, a California state court awarded a former school groundskeeper \$289 million, determining that his repeated on-the-job use of two glyphosate-containing pesticides caused him to develop a terminal case of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer. The plaintiff's attorneys argued the product manufacturer, Monsanto, failed to warn their client about the potential risks of using their products.

These decisions hit the news at a critical time in the legislative process. Members of Congress are headed back to D.C. next week after the August recess where they must agree on the 2018 Farm Bill before September 30th. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit language that AMCA has been pursuing for years can make it into the final bill, but only if the conference committee hears how NPDES permits impact mosquito control programs. [Click here to see the AMCA issue paper.](#)

To ensure Members of Congress fight to keep NPDES language in the Farm Bill for the protection of public health and to maintain vital vector control practices, please forward the [attached letter](#) and the following email language to your representative as soon as possible so that they can hear your voice.

Dear _____,

I am a member of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and I live in your state. The AMCA is comprised of public health professionals that are dedicated to serving the residents of our jurisdictions from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. AMCA is committed to protecting public health by implementing environmentally sound

practices that control mosquitoes consistent with applicable laws and tenets of public health, vector control, and environmental safety. We work diligently with our local, state and Federal agencies to ensure that we are judicious and efficient in our daily activities, and right now we need your help. With the continued introduction of new diseases to our residents, we cannot afford to waste our precious and limited resources. I am writing to express my concern and support for a specific provision of the Farm Bill that will help vector control in **insert state** and across the country protect public health from vector-borne diseases like West Nile virus, Zika virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and many others.

The opponents of this language have tried to paint this issue as a weakening of federal regulations for pesticides applied to water. This scare tactic cannot be further from the truth. The fact is that this legislation doesn't change how our existing water supplies are managed or compromises their integrity in any way. Our water is strenuously protected by numerous provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and our activities are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). All pesticides are thoroughly reviewed for health and environmental impacts and are fully regulated for use with strict instructions on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved product label. However, users are now subjected to a court created duplicate requirement that lawful applications near 'waters of the U.S.' must also obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from EPA or delegated states. Requiring these water permits for pesticide applications is redundant, costly and provides no tangible environmental benefit. This legislation would return to Congress's original intent when they passed the CWA and FIFRA, working together with each handling the issues that they were designed to do. Crossing intention only duplicates efforts and costs the taxpayers' money in waste and the improper utilization of scarce resources.

Please read the attached letter from AMCA and vote to keep this much needed language in the Farm Bill. Our residents, your constituents, deserve the very best out of our public health professionals. Do your best to ensure that they do.

Feel free to call or email anytime to discuss this matter. Thank you for your support of public health.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Phone number