

PUSH THE PESTICIDE INDUSTRY BACK

LET DEFRA KNOW VOLUNTARY CONTROLS ARE INADEQUATE

Pesticide campaigner Georgina Downs writes;

There is currently a DEFRA consultation on pesticides which is only open until the 4th May 2010. The link to the DEFRA Consultation is at:- <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/pesticides/index.htm>

I have a briefing on my website about it at:-

<http://www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk/documents/InformationOnPesticidesCo.doc>

(It is currently the first link on the website itself at www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk)

As you will see from the briefing the DEFRA Consultation Document does contain the option for a number of key measures in relation to residents including:-

- the option for the prohibition of pesticide use in areas used by the general public or vulnerable groups. (NB. The distance of the no-spray area needs to be substantial and needs to include near to residential areas, schools, playgrounds, hospitals and other public areas as there should not be any spraying near any of these areas);

- the option for a new legal obligation for farmers and other pesticide users to provide information to residents and others on the pesticides used. (NB. This needs to be direct access as third party access is not acceptable);

- the option for a new legal obligation for farmers and other pesticide users to provide residents with prior notification before pesticide spraying (NB. This needs to be at least 48 hours in advance as it currently is for the protection of bees).

Considering the DEFRA Consultee List is predominantly chemical companies and other industry bodies (no surprise there!!) it really is critical that the UK Government hears from as many members of the public who are affected or concerned about pesticides as possible even if it is just a short email containing some key points.

Some suggestions of what to include are:-

- Your own personal situations, including exposure and any adverse health effects suffered by you or your family members (or indeed pets/animals) whether it be acute and/or chronic effects

- Supporting the key measures in relation to the protection for residents as set out in summary above and in detail in the briefing on my website at:- <http://www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk/documents/InformationOnPesticidesCo.doc>
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- Pointing out that the only real solution to eliminate the adverse health and environmental impacts of pesticides is to take a preventative approach and avoid exposure altogether with the widespread adoption of truly sustainable non-chemical methods of plant protection and pest and crop management. This would be more in line with the objectives for sustainable crop protection, as the reliance on complex chemicals designed to kill plants, insects or other forms of life, cannot be classified as sustainable. Therefore priority should always be given to non-chemical methods.

The industry is pushing hard for the Government to only introduce voluntary measures and so it needs as many people as possible to counter that to make sure the Government know that it is mandatory measures that have to be introduced as voluntary measures do not work, have not worked, however many times they are repackaged etc.

If anyone wants to contact me for further information about the consultation please call me on 01243 773846.

Georgina Downs FRSA.

UK Pesticides Campaign. www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk