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Sensible approach to pesticide use

By **ROY CLANCY**

Last Updated: 17th November 2009, 3:33am

City council appears to be covering the sensible middle ground when it comes to drafting a bylaw to reduce the use of pesticides in Calgary.

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Tasha Brown

November 18th 2009, 7:43pm

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Obviously Jean Cottam intended to say: "First of all, DDT was beginning to be ineffective as early as 1955; it caused the exposed children to develop cancer when they [misspelled as their--a typo] reached adulthood. ..." The matter is discussed in some detail on www.beyondpesticides.org/DDT. DDT and its metabolites have been identified as endocrine disruptors, causing severe damage to human organism when exposed to small amounts during the vulnerable stages of life. Because it acts like a hormone, DDT interferes with many aspects of reproduction and development. Powerful vested interests would like you to think that DDT may even be eaten; in fact this is bound to result in cancer, genetical effects, malfunctioning of certain organs.

Joe Schwartz

November 18th 2009, 3:00pm

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The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) lacks independence and neutrality as they do not conduct their own in house laboratory safety tests on pesticides. Rather, they rely, almost entirely, upon the "bought science" that the pesticide industry provides them with. Much like the tobacco companies that buried unfavorable studies linking cancer to cigarettes, it is similarly quite possible for pesticide manufacturers to provide the PMRA with only "cherry picked" studies. Good Laboratory Practice (GPL) sounds good on paper, but means nothing when fraud occurs as was the case with Craven Laboratory and Intertek Testing Services Environmental Labs. See reference:: <http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/tcaw/10/i11/html/11regs.html>

K. Jean Cottam

November 18th 2009, 2:30pm

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PESTICIDES ARE NOT SAFE! Gathercole is wrong. Health Canada's scientists merely examine information about rats provided by the industry, with vital human data withheld. Also withheld is the toxicity of pesticide combinations (such as PAR III) and of so-called "inert" formulants added to ready-to-use pesticides and constituting up to 99% of these chemicals. Health Canada's epidemiology (human science) is very weak. Yet it is epidemiology that has linked pesticides to various cancers, Parkinson's, diabetes, impaired child development and immunological and reproductive harms. To sum up: Health Canada determines the alleged safety of chemicals on the basis of industry-provided incomplete and unreliable rat data multiplied by random amounts.

K. Jean Cottam

November 18th 2009, 2:01pm

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Mr. Gathercole is at it again--peddling his nonsense. Readers should know that he has been harassing this writer and many others by sending his stuff to them against their will! This is not a civilized behaviour. Mr. Gathercole and his friends are peddlers of misinformation who misrepresent what really happened with reference to DDT. First of all, DDT was beginning to be ineffective as early as 1955; it caused the exposed children to develop cancer when their reached adulthood; and it had been recently reintroduced in some African countries by WHO (World Health Organization). Mr. Gathercole is saying utter nonsense about me: 1) I am not a widow 2) I am retired intelligence analyst with pesticide expertise and 3) I am NOT 80 years old.

K. Jean Cottam

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November 18th 2009, 1:49pm

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William H. Gathercole

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November 18th 2009, 10:25am

Response to Jean Sergent (a.k.a. Jean Cottam) regarding DDT : It is a fact that the removal DDT led to the death of millions. In 2004, popular author Michael Crichton summed up the situation with the following excerpt from his entitled "State of Fear" "Arguably, the greatest tragedy of the Twentieth Century was the removal of DDT. DDT was the best insecticide for the control of mosquitoes. Since the removal of DDT, it has been estimated that thirty to fifty million people have died unnecessarily from the effects of malaria. Sadly, REMOVING DDT HAS KILLED MORE PEOPLE THAN HITLER. The removal of DDT showed that the West has a lack of compassion for those suffering in Third World countries. So does Miss Sergent.

William H. Gathercole

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November 18th 2009, 10:21am

Response to Jean Sergent (a.k.a. Jean Cottam) regarding pest control products and so-called health problems "Miss Cottam is an 80-year-old widowed translator that has NO recognized expertise, training, or background, in matters concerning PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ! It is a fact that conventional pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE ! Overall, when they are used properly, there are NO harmful irreversible effects to health and the environment ! These products have been scrutinized and approved by the HUNDREDS of expert scientists at Health Canada ! Products like 2,4-D, do NOT cause cancer. Calgary officials should be commended for NOT capitulating to prohibitionist pressure that employs LIES and FEAR-MONGERING.

K. Jean Cottam

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November 17th 2009, 5:13pm

There is no such word as "communistic". How true is the charge that 60 million Africans died because of the ban on DDT? DDT saved millions of children only to sicken them with cancer upon reaching adulthood. Besides, DDT was never fully banned in Africa. It is still being used. What cancer is linked to pesticide use? Breast cancer, leukemia, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Prostate cancer and Lung cancer. Pesticide use is also linked to Parkinson's, impaired child development, immunological and reproductive harms, as well as diabetes, with health problems passed to future generations and substantial pesticide residues found already in the fetus. Besides, inconvenient information is withheld from Health Canada, which has no labs of its own.

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