

# *Iowa* Farmer Today

## 2,4-D not likely to cause cancer: Studies

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Last month, a working group of the International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC) met over the course of seven days to evaluate 2,4-D herbicide. Some of IARC's conclusions align with the conclusions of the U.S. EPA and more than 90 other regulators, which is that the weight of evidence demonstrates "inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity" in humans.

Notwithstanding that the IARC Working Group found "inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity" in humans, they voted instead to classify the level of potential hazard as a 2B — "possible" human carcinogen based on "limited evidence of carcinogenicity" in animals and mechanistic data. Other substances with this "2B" classification include aloe vera, coffee and pickled vegetables.

IARC Working Groups are made up of academics and researchers with diverse backgrounds who meet to discuss published studies about several compounds. The IARC Working Group does not conduct any new research, but instead reviews selected studies previously reviewed by health and safety regulators, then scores the compounds.

IARC acknowledges that if exposure were factored into the equation, a different result could be reached. Aaron Blair, a previous IARC Panel Chair explained: "We look at 'could it potentially' cause cancer, but we don't look at whether it 'will or is likely to' cause cancer in real world use."

Moreover, IARC's press release on 2,4-D notes, "The distinction between hazard and risk is important, and the Monographs Programme identifies cancer hazards even when risks are very low at current exposure levels..."

Regulators like the EPA and more than 90 others join the World Health Organization in concluding that 2,4-D meets modern safety standards. Regulators can spend up to 17 years considering all of the available data and real-world amounts that people are exposed to as they conduct robust risk assessments. The EPA does consider real-world use. In looking at the same data last year after a much longer review than IARC, it determined: "...[B]ased on weight of evidence consideration of the available data, 2,4-D would be classified as 'Not Likely to be Carcinogenic to Humans'."

There has been more than 70 years of ongoing and continuous research on 2,4-D. In addition to being the world's most studied chemical, it is also one of the most widely used with more than 100 label uses authorized in some 90 countries.

As farmers know well, 2,4-D plays an important role in protecting crops, improving agricultural yields and reducing the risk of invasive and noxious species. For seven decades farmers have used 2,4-D as an important crop management tool to lower production costs and improve crop yields.

While providing low-cost weed control is what 2,4-D is best known for, there are also environmental benefits that include decreased soil erosion and decreased greenhouse gases through no-till crop management programs.

An extensive study on the benefits of 2,4-D was conducted in 1996 and found that if farmers did not have 2,4-D, production costs would rise by \$1.7 billion annually. An updated value-benefits study will be published in a couple of months. As one example from its initial findings, the study concludes that for corn growers alternative herbicides to 2,4-D would be up to five times more expensive than 2,4-D.

Research on 2,4-D is always ongoing. Dozens of studies are published each year by academics. Plant science companies and regulators around the world continue to examine 2,4-D to ensure that it can continue to be used safely according to label direction. 2,4-D will continue to play an integral role in agriculture given the valuable uses that have been approved for it by regulators in the U.S. and abroad.

Jim Gray is executive director of Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data, a joint research venture of companies that hold technical 2,4-D registrations.

## **NORAHG RESPONDS ABOUT MR JIM GRAY — HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH !**

Mr Jim Gray is among several LEADING EXPERTS who have recognized expertise, training and background in matters concerning pest control products. Mr Gray has more than two decades of professional and regulatory experience in the agriculture and bio-technology industries. Mr Gray is among GREATLY RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Mr Gray is the Executive Director of the Industry Task Force II On 2,4-D Research Data, a role he has held since November 2007. He worked extensively in corporate settings at Fortune 100 level companies prior to joining the Task Force, and he is a recognized and trusted resource for corporations, grower boards, state-level departments of agriculture and various state legislatures and regulatory bodies across the country. Mr Gray's career experience spans the agricultural, food, feed, and bio-energy industries. Mr Gray also worked with Bayer CropScience as the State Affairs Manager, with the Western Crop Protection Association as the Director Of Regulatory And Environmental Affairs, and as a Production Manager and Sales Representative with a variety of prominent agricultural and chemical companies. Mr Gray is also one of the world's MOST PROMINENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SPOKESMEN on the subject of pest control products. He has once again effectively spoken out against the lies and mis-information that are spread by anti-pesticide fanatics. Mr Gray SPEAKS THE TRUTH — and deserves CONGRATULATION.

The safety and effectiveness of 2,4-D Herbicide is NOT a debatable issue. Scientific research shows, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's VAST TOXICOLOGY DATABASE, that NO harm will occur when pest control products like 2,4-D are used according to label directions. According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ( EPA ), 2,4-D is NOT CLASSIFIABLE AS TO HUMAN CARCINOGENICITY. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6A7> The TOXICITY of 2,4-D is NOT VERY HIGH when compared to TABLE SALT. Despite the opposite claims of activists, NO regulatory body in the world classifies 2,4-D as a human carcinogen. 2,4-D has been used for the control of broad-leaved weeds in the Urban Landscape SINCE 1946. 2,4-D has a 65-YEAR UNBLEMISHED SAFETY RECORD regarding long-term risk to health. 2,4-D is SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE and will CAUSE NO HARM. To evaluate the full body

of evidence, please take a look at The Industry Task Force II On 2,4-D  
Research Data. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-57Y> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1J8>

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