

Cosmetic Pesticides in NB:

Report on Pesticide Action Group Meeting, January 8, 2003 , Victoria Health Centre, Fredericton

Meeting Participants: Simon Mitchell, Falls Brook Centre; Liz Smith, New Brunswick Lung Association; Kathy Stapleton, NB Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG)

The meeting was principally an information session. As there has not been much recent action by the Pesticide Action Group as a group, apart from a brief review of the Cosmetic Pesticide resolution and signatures, the information exchange focussed on what has been happening at DELG and the organizations with representatives present.

Actions by DELG:

The department is actively involved with other provincial government reps and the PMRA of Health Canada in the development of the National Healthy Lawns Strategy, the objective of which is to:

Reduce reliance on pesticide use for lawn care through the application of Integrated Pest Management principles, with particular emphasis on pest prevention, use of reduced risk products and application of pesticides only when necessary.

One of the tasks of this strategy is to reclassify some commonly used pesticides, so that the “domestic” or most accessible category will be narrowed down and a new, more controlled category of pesticides will be created. Thus pesticides such as Killex, for example, might need a “prescription” and would be obtained much as one would a prescription drug.

The consultation document for the classification system can be obtained at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/fpt/fpt-e.html. Comments have to be in by February 4th.

Also through this strategy, the Department will be distributing a kit of Healthy Lawn Tips produced by Health Canada , initially using the municipalities as points of distribution.

Other actions being taken by the Department are a review of the provincial legislation concerning pesticides, education of pesticide licensees regarding IPM practices, and the formation of a pesticide working group consisting of stakeholders around the province. An invitation to the NBEN to send a representative will be forthcoming within the next week.

Kathy Stapleton mentioned that the progress being made at the provincial level appears to be in very small increments. However, to take a positive view, it is apparent that not everyone's perception of the pesticide issue is the same, and sometimes it is better to make slow progress with buy-in than no progress at all because of complete rejection.

Actions by Pesticide Action Group:

No action was taken regarding the pesticide resolution in 2002 as the member organizations had other commitments keeping them busy and there were a number of personnel changes among the groups concerned. However, there is one private citizen in Fredericton who is willing to invest his time in promoting the resolution.

Actions by Member Groups:

Falls Brook Centre:

Falls Brook Centre, a sustainable community development demonstration centre, is involved mainly with pesticide use in agriculture and forestry. To this end, their 400 acres are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) certified for forestry, non-timber forest products and agriculture. Both certification schemes prohibit the use of biocides. The centre advises and supports woodlot and farm owners in their region who are, or are in the process of becoming certified. In 2002, it also spent considerable effort raising public awareness about the 12000 hectares of New Brunswick crown land which are sprayed with herbicides every year. It was pointed out that the province of Quebec has banned herbicide spraying on its crown land.

Contact people for Falls Brook Centre, for the pesticides issue are:

Simon Mitchell, (Forestry) at (506) 375-4310 simon@fallsbrookcentre.ca

Andrea Berry, (Agriculture) at (506) 375-4310 andrea@fallsbrookcentre.ca

The New Brunswick Lung Association:

The Association continues to focus on public education to reduce the use of cosmetic pesticides through its Healthy Lawn Program (same name as the national program, different slant) This program is delivered by experienced gardeners in urban areas through workplace Lunch and Learns, in-home neighbourhood Get-Togethers, and community group talks. The events feature a brief explanation about why one would choose not to use pesticides, and concentrates on how to avoid their use on the lawn by "...Easy as 1-2-3" horticultural practices. Participants are surveyed regarding their use of pesticides and asked to make a commitment to reduce or eliminate their use. Door prizes of gift certificates at local garden centres are used to entice people to the talks. In the spring of 2002, the program was shared at Environment Canada's Atlantic

Pesticides conference in Sackville, the provincial Horticultural Trades Association Meeting in Sussex , and the national forum on Gardening for Life held by Active Living-Go for Green in Toronto .

The NBLA's Healthy Home program, which teaches participants how to improve indoor and outdoor air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, includes alternative actions to control indoor pests.

Other Member Organizations:

Please feel free to contact the Chair with an update on what your group has been doing regarding pesticides so that we can work cooperatively on this issue and be well represented on the provincial government Working Group.

Submitted by Liz Smith,
Chair,
NBEN Pesticide Action Group