

From: [JoAnn Myers](#)
To: [Pesticides](#)
Subject: Public Forum at Maine BPC
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To: Megan Patterson, Director and Members of the Board of Pesticides Control:

We are Beau Chemin Preservation Farm in Waldoboro, Maine, a family (husband/wife) farm for over 20 years. We are certified organic for some crops and farm conventionally for other commercial farm production. I hold a Basic Pesticide Application License.

I strongly support a stakeholder meeting, convened by the Board of Pesticides Control, regarding a pesticide notification registry.

Maine enacted a pesticide notification law about 10 years ago requiring the land managers to notify neighbors in advance of pesticide application and subsequently developed an internet-based system designed to help land managers identify and contact neighbors who want advance notification of planned pesticide applications. The law was repealed.

A stakeholder meeting is essential as a first step to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the current pesticide notification registry and regulations:

1. Stakeholder experience with a registry system is relatively recent meaning that this experience still has relevance
2. The general public is concerned about pesticide use and its impact on human health, our waterways, wildlife and the environment in general. It will be informative to all of us stakeholders to have a group discussion on how we think about public concerns and how we are now responding to the public in our the work we do.
3. Public concerns about pesticide use is obvious given that nearly 50 communities in Maine have exercised their right to establish local pesticide control ordinances. When a bill was proposed to abandon this community option, opposition by advocates of local pesticide control ordinances objected and successfully pushed back on this effort.
4. Stakeholders have an opportunity to discuss how the public can be informed about pesticide use, how public concerns and interests can be respected and addressed, how to craft a pesticide registry workable for stakeholders and responsive to the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue to the Board of Pesticide Control.

Sincerely,
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