

Chamberlain, Anne

From: Pesticides
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Jennings, Henry; Chamberlain, Anne
Subject: FW: sales-data followup to members of the pesticide-control board, prior to January 11 meeting

From: jody spear [<mailto:lacewing41@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 12:24 PM

To: Pesticides; Paul; Sarah Lakeman; Ryan Parker; tquaday@mofga.org; Ben Tettlebaum; Avery Yale Kamila; Cathy Ramsdell; JoAnn Myers

Subject: sales-data followup to members of the pesticide-control board, prior to January 11 meeting

Dear board members,

More than a year has passed since letters were sent to you from MOFGA, NRCM, Friends of Casco Bay, Conservation Law Foundation, Paul Schlein, and myself asking, among other things, that homeowner pesticide sales data be tracked in order to show that the state is fulfilling its mandate to reduce pesticide use. The board did not respond to those letters, so it's time to renew the request and to underscore some of the main issues about misuse of chemicals applied cosmetically to lawns and golf courses. Memos from MOFGA and NRCM of January 5 and 6, 2017, respectively, are on the agenda for today's meeting, and I have my own concerns.

The agriculture department's staff have been involved in sediment and stormwater testing, results of which reveal some of the pesticides that are migrating into waterways. Not surprisingly, they include weed-and-feed herbicidal formulations -- used excessively on urban lawns -- and fungicides, often applied preemptively. The very fact that these and many other pesticides are getting into water sources is a compelling reason to track them, but there are other reasons -- namely, (1) the damage done to bird and bee populations by insecticides as well as weed and fungal killers and (2) rampant weed resistance, fungal resistance, and insect resistance to the chemicals applied.

As the target pests become resistant, more and more toxic chemicals are substituted, and thus those listed on annual summary reports are moving targets. To single out, as Ted Quaday (MOFGA) and Sarah Lakeman (NRCM) have done, only six herbicides and three insecticides from a recent report -- and omitting fungicides altogether -- strikes me as inadequate. Now more than ever, we need a complete accounting of pesticides sold and used. If the board is unwilling to dedicate resources to the task, replicating systems used elsewhere, it may be that others will find a way to do it for individual municipalities, just as ordinance processes are being undertaken by activists city by city throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Jody Spear, Harborside

P.S. For the record, the MOFGA short list includes the following:

herbicides 2,4-D, MCPP, and dicamba (only one of many three-way weed-and-feed combinations), prodiamine, dithiopyr, glyphosate; insecticides imidacloprid (only one of several neonicotinoids), bifenthrin and permethrin (only two of several pyrethroids).

Also for the record, pesticides detected by Friends of Casco Bay sampling (2001-2009) include the following:

herbicides 2,4-D, MCPP, dicamba, clopyralid, MCPA, diazinon; insecticide sumithrin; fungicides chlorothalonil and propiconazole.

P.P.S. I find it troubling that the board is ramping up efforts to spray for an expected browntail moth infestation next spring, imperiling many beneficial insects and aquatic life, rather than emphasizing individual protective responses such as covering skin surfaces. Surely the few who experience dermal and respiratory discomfort from BTM should not dictate a policy that will cause far more harm to far more people and wildlife.