



Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR

January 5, 2016

Maine Board of Pesticides Control
State House Station 28
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Members of the Board,

During the past year, MOFGA has joined other organizations and members of the public, in repeatedly requesting that statewide data collection on pesticide use become a more focused component and a higher priority of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC). The now widely circulated graphic that indicates a 700% increase in distribution of pesticides intended for homeowner use in Maine has been widely cited by the public and is a frequent topic of conversation among members of the board. Regardless of how the board might feel about the source and representation of this figure, the fact remains that it is the best data available to the public to identify trends regarding pesticide use in Maine. Updating and refining data collection certainly seems like an area of common ground for all the parties interested in pesticide use in the state. As one of those parties, MOFGA is requesting that the board begin to track and annually disseminate sales data for the following active pesticide ingredients: prodiamine, dicamba, 2,4-D, imidacloprid, bifenthrin, dithiopyr, glyphosate, mecoprop, and permethrin.

These ingredients are believed to be among the most widely used in Maine's urban areas. Some were recently detected in storm water and/or sediment through surveys conducted by BPC staff. These data are requested so that the board and the public can, over time, establish whether or not pesticide use is decreasing in the state. Data collection is a scientific, verifiable way to demonstrate whether or not the Board is meeting its mandate to reduce reliance on pesticides.

BPC staff presentations have repeatedly indicated that the changing nature of product formulations and current methods of data collection make the task of collecting data onerous. In response to this concern, we are requesting data collection on a distinct and limited set of active ingredients at this time. However, this list is not static and will likely need to be amended in the future to respond to changing chemical configurations and emerging technologies. This request should allow the staff to develop a system for collection that is efficient and easily built upon in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Quaday, Executive Director

P.O. Box 170 • 294 Crosby Brook Road • Unity, Maine 04988-0170

Phone: (207) 568-4142 • Fax: (207) 568-4141

mofga@mofga.org • www.mofga.org