



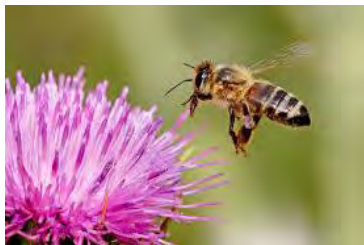
From the Director

Brian R. Leahy, Director
Department of Pesticide Regulation

Hello and Happy New Year,

This update is to give you a sense of some of the major issues the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is working on this year. Even though it is only January, our calendar is jam-packed and our team of scientists and staff is working on a number of thorny but essential issues that are vital to performing DPR's mission. This includes enhancing the administrative side of DPR.

We are committed to ensuring that the organization attracts and retains talented individuals, that Information Technology is kept current, and that all administrative functions are operating at high levels of competency. Because DPR is a well-run organization made up of talented, dedicated staff, it is more than capable of taking on and accomplishing challenging tasks like those mentioned below.



Protecting people with science: DPR's team of scientists continually evaluates how pesticides impact the public health and the environment. This includes carrying out in-depth scientific reviews, known as ecological and human health risk assessments. In 2016, based on these assessments, DPR is likely to announce new restrictions on several chemicals to further protect people and the environment. These include pesticides such as imidacloprid, 1,3-D, and chlorpyrifos which are widely used in agriculture. DPR is committed to ensuring that our scientists have comprehensive and reliable data and information so that the decisions we make take into consideration the best available science.



Grants: Don't forget that DPR is accepting applications for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Alliance Grants. If you know of a worthy project that fits our guidelines, apply before Feb. 5. Application and program details can be found [here](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgmt/grants/alliance).



Pesticide use around schools: One large task DPR is undertaking is an effort to further protect school children from potential pesticide hazards from farm operations adjacent to schools. In California, schools continue to be built near working farms and this can cause potential conflict between parents, farmers, teachers, and kids who all want vibrant agriculture and schools to co-exist. A number of counties have already instituted measures to protect children on

school sites when agricultural pesticides are applied next to schools. We hope to draw from these and develop a statewide regulation that will take effect in 2017. Last year, several hundred people -- including residents, teachers, students, and farmers -- attended our workshops and provided DPR with valuable input. The proposed regulation, which will be issued this year, is intended to give an additional level of protection to children in schools from potential exposure to pesticides used in surrounding agricultural fields. The public will have 45 days to comment on the proposal -- by mail, e-mail, or fax -- on all or any part of the proposed regulation. DPR will consider and respond to comments before adopting the final regulation.



Worker protections: In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency made headlines when it announced it would review agricultural Worker Protection Standards for the first time in decades. U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, who visited California last year, was impressed with the protections that we already afford workers in California. Indeed, California is widely regarded as having some of the toughest, most comprehensive protections in the country. But we are not resting on our

laurels. In 2016, DPR staff will be looking at adjusting some of our existing rules to incorporate the federal changes to help better protect the 600,000 or so farmworkers that produce our food here in California. You can see the [U.S. EPA proposal here](#).



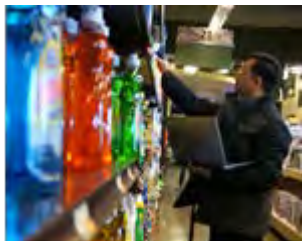
A core part of DPR's work is protecting fieldworkers. To enhance our mission, DPR will be holding more training workshops aimed at people who train fieldworkers. The overall goals are to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to workers (pesticide handlers and fieldworkers) and promote improved compliance with pesticide laws and regulations.

These workshops have proven to be very effective at keeping the workers who produce our food safe, and we plan to continue the workshops throughout 2016.



School IPM: Anyone who has visited a school recently can tell you that, despite the best efforts of dedicated staff, some schools can contain a surprising amount of food and litter. And that attracts pests. It is one reason why many schools use pesticides on campuses -- from

sanitizers and disinfectants, to roach sprays and more. A new law that takes effect this year requires EVERYONE working at schools and daycare centers who uses any pesticide product to complete training in the use of pesticide alternatives. Yes, this means volunteers and teachers' aides, as well as janitors, groundskeepers, or pest control applicators hired by the school. DPR is developing free online training courses that will be available on our Web site in a few weeks. Anyone who applies pesticides on school sites will have to complete the course by July 1, 2016.



Enforcement: This year, you can expect DPR staff to pay added attention to companies that sell unregistered pesticide products to consumers. These products include clothing, pillows, blankets, and products for pets. In the worst cases, these products can put people in harm's way because DPR has not determined that they work or that they are safe to use. DPR scientists are continuously reviewing products found on store shelves and will be zeroing in on this growing issue of unsubstantiated claims.



MillPay: I am very excited that DPR is going even more "green" by reducing the amount of paper it uses, as we transform the way companies report pesticide sales and make payments known as "the mill." With the current paper reporting system, DPR staff members spend hundreds of hours mailing out forms to vendors who, in turn, submit reports to the state by mail. Anyone familiar with converting a pen-and-paper system to a computerized one will know that many technological challenges are involved. Indeed, this issue has taken almost a decade of planning and development. However, thanks to dedicated staff, the pilot program launched in 2015 has progressed well and this year pesticide vendors will be able to use an online system for a more convenient, time-saving, and secure way of reporting pesticide sales information. To learn more about MillPay, visit the DPR Web site, scroll over "Programs," and then click on the link for "Mill Assessment."

In many ways, these issues embody what I hope will characterize DPR in 2016: Effective, safe, and more modern. Here's to a great year!

For more information, contact DPR

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