



# From the Director

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May 27, 2016

Hello,

As we head into the summer months, I want to update you on a handful of issues the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is working on. These range from regulating the use of drones to creating new rules about notifying people when certain pesticides are used. As you know, I am passionate about encouraging growers to make thoughtful choices and use the least challenging pesticides wherever possible to protect public health and the environment. With that in mind, I am pleased to be able to share some of the protective measures the department is working on.



**Drones and Pesticides:** No doubt you have read much about drones and their use in society. We at DPR believe that, with effective oversight and thoughtful planning, the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), aka drones, may play a safe and significant role in agriculture. To date, one company has successfully used a drone to apply a pesticide in California. Other companies may meet the stringent requirements necessary to follow. Since drones are smaller and can carry less pesticide than helicopters/planes, DPR anticipates they will initially be used for smaller applications in unique settings. In some cases, these unmanned aircraft have the potential to apply pesticides with

more precision than other methods of applications. It is another example of the exciting science and technologies that are being used in farming.

Many thanks to all the people who came to DPR's workshops

DPR is developing rules for how people who live near agricultural fields will be given advance notice when fumigants are used



**Notification about soil fumigant use:** DPR heard directly from hundreds of people who came to our recent workshops about notifying nearby residents when soil fumigants are used on farms. The workshops, in the Fresno and Salinas areas, yielded plenty of food for thought as our staff develop a new regulation that will standardize the notification requirements for all agricultural fumigants statewide. We hope to have a draft regulation available for public comment in 2017. In the meantime, as you may know, we are also working on a

different regulation that will provide additional protections for children and staff on school campuses built near agricultural fields. The draft regulation should be available later this year.



**Preventing Pesticide Illnesses:** Antimicrobials are a leading cause of pesticide-related illnesses in California. A recent review of our DPR illness data revealed that a large percentage of injuries occurred in service establishments, including restaurants and food facilities. DPR is developing outreach posters aimed at educating workers in retail food industries about antimicrobial use in an effort to bring awareness and reduce illnesses. The department

continues to work with local environmental health agencies responsible for inspecting food facilities and restaurants, to educate them on this important issue.



**Protecting those who grow our food:** With more than 2 million farmworkers in the U.S., DPR is pleased that the U.S. EPA is updating its Worker Protection Standards (WPS). While California's worker protections are, in most regards, ahead of the federal WPS, DPR is nevertheless adapting some elements to conform with the new federal rules. We believe these changes will continue to ensure California has the toughest and most comprehensive pesticide protections in the country. The proposed

changes, which address annual training for fieldworkers amongst other things, are scheduled to take effect in January 2017. Read them online at

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-001/16-001.htm>



**IPM Training for School Staff:** As a result of changes in the Healthy Schools Act (HSA), DPR is now offering free online training for anyone who applies pesticides, including disinfectants, at schools or child care centers. This includes volunteers, teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, teaching aides, volunteers, groundskeepers, and other staff. The one-hour courses must be taken annually. Sign up now at

<http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/training/main.cfm>. DPR is also offering training kits to allow school districts or child care centers to train multiple people in a group setting. Please email [school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov) to request one.



**Scientific Studies:** I am so proud of the work of our scientists and am continually impressed with their dedication. You may recall they have finished an assessment of the fumigant 1,3-D and are now working on a risk assessment for Fipronil which should be completed by the end of the year. Fipronil is an insecticide often used in structural pest control and also in flea and tick treatments for pets. This risk assessment incorporates

the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences who reviewed our process in 2015.

Concurrently, scientists are reviewing and responding to the scientific comments of the draft risk assessment of chlorpyrifos. The ultimate goal is to develop additional measures to protect human health from any adverse effects identified in the risk assessment. As you know, the U.S. EPA is proposing to revoke all food residue tolerances for this pesticide but DPR will continue to develop protective measures regardless of U.S. EPA's timeline.



**Apiary Inspector Trainings:** Once again, DPR recently hosted very well attended pollinator/apiary training – this time in Modesto and Parlier. This hands-on training helps to educate county agricultural commissioner biologists and inspectors. The training topics included: apiary pests and diseases, beekeeper pesticide and medication usage, and bees-pesticide label interpretations amongst other things. Take a look at the photos on our [Facebook page here](#)



**Pesticide disposal:** Finally, I am very pleased the Agricultural Pesticide Disposal Project in Imperial County was a huge success. Many thanks to all those who were involved behind the scenes, especially to the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner Connie Valenzuela and her staff. It's a great way to allow growers and farmers to safely dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides. More than 24,000 pounds of pesticides were collected for disposal before they could become a hazard.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at DPR. We'll continue with the important business of protecting human health and the environment in the latter half of this year and beyond. Stay tuned and, meanwhile, have a wonderful summer.

For more information, contact DPR [Newseditor@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:Newseditor@cdpr.ca.gov)

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