



“From the Director”

Brian R. Leahy, Director
Department of Pesticide Regulation

Hello,

It has been an exciting summer at DPR and I would like to share with you some of the Department’s recent activities.



Commitment to wildlife: This summer, DPR has proposed new regulations to protect the environment and wildlife. After reviewing available data, DPR believes that exposure and toxicity to some wildlife from second generation anticoagulant rodenticides is a statewide problem in both urban and rural areas. (These rodenticides cause the pest to die several days after ingestion. The rodenticide remains in their body tissue. When wildlife eats the poisoned pest, they are exposed to the poison as well). To mitigate this issue, DPR proposed regulations to designate all second generation anticoagulant rodenticides as California-restricted materials. This means in effect that only certified and/or trained applicators will be able to buy and use rodenticides. Ultimately, it should significantly reduce unintended exposures to non-target wildlife. You can find out more at www.cdpr.ca.gov



Commitment to air: As part of our commitment to the environment--and helping to improve air quality in particular--DPR has upgraded its Web-based tool for calculating volatile organic

compound (VOC) emissions from agricultural applications of nonfumigant pesticides. You can calculate VOC emissions from single or multiple pesticide products and applications [here](#).

In addition, new regulations to reduce VOC emissions from certain nonfumigant pesticide products go into effect beginning November 1, 2013. The regulations are designed to keep VOC emissions below a specified goal from May to October in the San Joaquin Valley. Think of it as a spare the air day for high VOC agricultural products. (Designated high-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen have restrictions on sales and use.) Visit our Web site www.cdpr.ca.gov or [click here for more on the regulations](#).



Commitment to children: As you know, DPR embraces the principles of integrated pest management and continues to reach out to the public to help them manage pests without using a large amount of pesticides. This is especially important for child care providers. Staff in the Pest Management and Licensing Branch helped UC San Francisco develop a Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Toolkit for child care providers. The kit includes a curriculum, fact sheets, posters, and a checklist. It educates child care providers on the risks of commonly used cleaning products that contain antimicrobial pesticides and offers reduced-risk and nonchemical options. Look for the online kit on our Web site at the end of July; staff will also present the Toolkit materials at different statewide workshops beginning in August 2013.

Our Web site also contains Child Care Integrated Pest Management brochures in English and Spanish <http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare/main.cfm#Complying>. In addition, DPR has begun working on a training video series for integrated pest management in child care facilities. The series of seven short videos will be filmed and edited this summer and finalized for distribution this fall.



Commitment to safety: With the abundance of fresh produce, it is a good time to remind you that DPR works closely with local county agricultural commissioners to ensure that growers adhere to stringent pesticide rules, which make California's produce the safest in the nation! You may have seen the recent news coverage after [DPR took enforcement action against illegal pesticide use](#). Working with the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner, DPR ordered a Watsonville grower to pay a \$15,000 fine and destroy the affected strawberry crops.



Commitment to expansion: I am pleased to announce that DPR's 2013-14 budget includes allocation for eight new positions. Five of these positions will be used to address the workload associated with the continuous evaluation of registered pesticides and the development of mitigation measures to address environmental issues. Access to more information and evolving scientific analysis provides DPR with better tools to assess the potential of pesticides to adversely affect wildlife and the environment. Current issues of concern include wildlife impacted by rodenticides and pesticides that impact surface water quality. I anticipate the remaining three positions will be used to strengthen the departments work on mitigation measures for toxic air contaminants.

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