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# BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, June 23, 2010 | Last Update: 6:42am

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Thursday High: 76° Low: 58°



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## LETTERS

### June 23 Letters to the Editor

6/22/10 | 9 comments



#### Pesticide hearing

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control is seeking input about the development of a comprehensive pesticide notification registry during two public meetings being held at the Clipper Lounge, 34 Downeast Drive, at the University of Maine at Machias.

The first meeting will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, June 24, with the second meeting slated for 9:30 a.m. Friday, June 25.

A recent law enacted by the Maine Legislature (Public Law 2009, Chapter 584, LD 1547) requires the BPC to develop the comprehensive registry, and incorporate the two current notification registries maintained by the board into a single list of individuals seeking advance notice of outdoor pesticide applications.

Specifically, the board is seeking input on: the scope and operation of a comprehensive registry; the types of applications and equipment to be included under the registry; the appropriate distances from a spray site for determining whether neighbors qualify for notification; the feasibility and advisability of requiring land managers to post signs on properties where pesticides are applied; and the feasibility of developing an automated, Internet-based system for land managers to use in notifying registry participants.

Written comments on the development of the comprehensive notification registry may be e-mailed to [henry.jennings@maine.gov](mailto:henry.jennings@maine.gov), or mailed to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control at 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028.

**Paul Schlein**

**Public information**

**officer**

**Maine Board**

**of Pesticides Control**

...

#### Carbon assumptions

Keith Van Scotter's opinion piece, "The Clean Air Act is the wrong tool to regulate greenhouse gases" (BDN, June 12), correctly notes that forest biomass can be a new source of jobs in Maine and a path toward a clean energy future. But he wanders away from the scientific evidence when he insists that the use of biomass is necessarily "carbon neutral."

The Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to stick to what scientific evidence shows, which is that the use of biomass can be either positive or negative for the environment. The source of the biomass, the





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STATE OF MAINE  
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BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL  
28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

SETH H. BRADSTREET III  
COMMISSIONER

HENRY JENNINGS  
DIRECTOR

## MEDIA ALERT

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For Immediate Release  
Date: June 18, 2010

Contact: Paul Schlein, 287-7533  
[paul.b.schlein@maine.gov](mailto:paul.b.schlein@maine.gov)

### PESTICIDE BOARD SEEKS INPUT ON COMPREHENSIVE PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY

**WHO:** Maine Board of Pesticides Control

**WHAT:** Public Information Gathering Meeting about Development of a Comprehensive Pesticide Notification Registry

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 24, 2010, 7:00 PM, and Friday, June 25, 2010, 9:30 AM

**WHERE:** University of Maine at Machias, Sennett Hall, Clipper Lounge, 34 Downeast Drive

**DETAILS:** The Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) is seeking input from interested parties about the development of a comprehensive pesticide notification registry. A recent law enacted by the Maine Legislature (Public Law 2009, Chapter 584, LD 1547) requires the BPC to develop the comprehensive registry, and incorporate the two current notification registries maintained by the Board into a single list of individuals seeking advance notice of outdoor pesticide applications. Specifically, the Board is seeking input on:

- The scope and operation of a comprehensive registry
- The types of applications and equipment to be included under the registry
- The appropriate distances from a spray site for determining whether neighbors qualify for notification
- The feasibility and advisability of requiring land managers to post signs on properties where pesticides are applied
- The feasibility of developing an automated, Internet-based system for land managers to use in notifying registry participants

Written comments on the development of the comprehensive notification registry may be e-mailed to [henry.jennings@maine.gov](mailto:henry.jennings@maine.gov), or mailed to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control at 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028.

*The Maine Board of Pesticides Control is the lead state agency for pesticide regulation. An administrative unit of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, policy decisions are made by a seven-member, public board.*

###



**Light Rain**

High: 76°

Low: 63°

High Tide

9:25 AM

Low Tide

3:19 PM

64°

Adopt Lincoln

Wednesday, June 23, 2010



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June 17

## Letters to the editor, June 17, 2010 Pest-killing chemicals carry high price

- **Page A3 headline**, The Portland Press Herald (May 17): "Study links ADHD with pesticides."
- **General inquiry**: "Where have all the songbirds gone?"
- **Researchers pursue** possible reasons for the seeming increase in asthma cases.
- **Are pollen** and other allergies becoming more prevalent?

My question: Are too many of the above and other observations related to the suggested reason in the first?

Take a walk down the home and garden aisles of the local hardware, building supply or landscaping and plant store. Look carefully at the items for sale and read some of the labels.

One will find multiple applications for killing ants, moles, grubs, mosquitoes, Japanese beetles, termites, ticks, fleas, nematodes and "a multitude of other pests." The labels don't mention bees, nature's natural pollinator, or earthworms, the best cultivators one can use to aerate lawns.

Let us not ignore the list of fungicides, many times included in the general-purpose kill-all sprays, with the application attitude of "if it moves, spray it."

"This item has been tested and approved for the use where people may be frequenting. However, after applying, shower thoroughly and stay away from the treated area for several hours."

What's that got to do with the songbirds? Well, what do robins



The food supply of wild birds – including earthworms and insects – is threatened by the widespread use of chemical pesticides, says one reader who calls them "general-purpose kill-all sprays."

2006 Associated Press file photo

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**OUTFIT**

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and their offspring eat? What do most other wild birds eat?  
Insects; they cannot distinguish if they are poisoned or not.  
Don't worry about the robins -- the earthworms are all dead  
and gone, so they won't be any bother.

Any new imports couldn't make their way up through the concrete anyway, and the  
rainwater cannot penetrate as fast to make for muddy lawns. It just runs off more quickly  
and causes flash flooding.

This is the modern, "lie on the lounge and watch 'em die" system.

Mow the grass short, take the organic clippings to the trash bin and spread the chemicals  
to make the grass grow. The modern "recycling" system.

*John Labrecque*

*Gorham*

**Spraying pesticides** should not be allowed. People who use lawn chemicals do not  
understand the health risks. The risk is not just for themselves but for the rest of the world  
as well.

Pesticides attack the central nervous system. This can be deadly and affect humans and  
animals.

People who are exposed to pesticides can have blurred vision, stomach symptoms,  
headaches and chest-pain. They can develop numbness. Another side effect can be  
asthma-like attacks and learning disabilities. People living in houses that use lawn  
chemicals are at higher risk.

One of the chemicals most commonly used in lawn pesticides is 2, 4-D, also known as  
Agent Orange. This was used by the U.S. military in a herbicidal warfare program during  
the Vietnam War.

The chemical 2, 4-D is very carcinogenic, which means it causes cancer. The problem is  
that people are spraying their lawns with unnecessary chemicals to have their lawn look  
"good," and people are getting sick.

A Centers for Disease Control study, involving 9,282 people across the nation, found  
pesticides in the blood and urine of each participant.

Nineteen out of the 30 commonly used chemicals are linked to cancer, and 13 out of 30  
are linked to birth defects. The most concerning thing is that 17 out of 30 are detected in  
groundwater!

More than 1 million pounds of pesticides are used each year by American homeowners.  
All these pesticides eventually go into the groundwater.

Pesticides are clearly bad for our environment, our planet and ourselves. Pesticides cause  
health problems and are now in people and the environment. Pesticides should be  
regulated by the government.

Is the risk worth taking for a green lawn?

*Jake Inger*

*Student, Harrison Middle School*

*Yarmouth*

