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From: Peter Aldridge [mailto:peter@hatchfarm.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:00 AM

To: Jennings, Henry

Subject: Pesticides and bees

Hi Henry

I'd like to emphasize a point from Nancy's letter about the co-op banning neonicotinoids. It was stated:

The Co-op said it will eliminate the usage of the neonicotinoid family of chemicals where possible and until they are shown to be safe.

While this may appear revolutionary, how can we even dream that any other approach - you don't use it until you can show its safe - is reasonable?

I would like to see the board actually discuss the merits of adopting this precautionary principle to its regulation efforts. The Board may decide it's not the right way, it may decide it lacks the authority to make such a change, but it surely should discuss it.

Sincerely,

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