




Pruitt ignores science, keeps brain-harming pesticide on the market

In March, Scott Pruitt signed his first official action as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The *New York Times* headline captured it well: "EPA Chief, Rejecting Agency's Science, Chooses Not to Ban Insecticide."

Chlorpyrifos is a widely used neurotoxic insecticide—and study after study has shown that exposure to this chemical harms the development of children's brains. One study even used MRI technology to link chlorpyrifos exposure to changes in brain architecture. And when mothers are exposed during pregnancy, their children have lower IQs, developmental delays and increased risk of autism.

This year, EPA was poised to *finally* halt use of chlorpyrifos on agricultural crops, after banning home use in 2001. But Pruitt reversed that decision, ignoring science and clear evidence of harm.

Along with partners, PAN moved quickly to legally challenge Pruitt's shameful decision—and we're continuing to do all we can to keep this issue front and center on the national stage. We're also working with partners to win immediate action in California, which uses more chlorpyrifos than any other state.

Take Action Join us in keeping the pressure on federal policymakers to do the right thing at www.panna.org/chlorpyrifos. 



Voices from the Frontline: Claudia Angulo



Claudia Angulo is a mother from Orange Cove, California, whose kids attend schools near heavy pesticide use on citrus groves. In collaboration with the local nonprofit El Quinto Sol de América, a journalist helped Claudia conduct a biomonitoring study of her son—and they found over 50 different pesticides in his body. Claudia has since become a leader and activist within her community for pesticide reform, and the migrant education program recently nominated her for “parent of the year.” We had the opportunity to speak with Claudia about her experiences.

“During spray season, children are most vulnerable. At school, headaches and bloody noses are common, but go unreported. I’ve even seen some children pass out. I’m a parent volunteer at the school, and I’ve seen how

the number of kids going in to see a nurse increases during spray season. School officials attribute this spike to heat stress even if the weather is a cool 75 degrees. But, no, during spray season, more kids see the nurse.

Ultimately, I would like for schools and daycare centers to be free of pesticides. We need the children to be safe. This is what a healthy food system would

look like. To start, growers need to transition away from dangerous chemicals. I know it's expensive, but it is also possible. Better quality, healthier environment and more profit—again, we would all be healthier and have a better quality of life. We all win in a pesticide-free food system.”

Go to www.panna.org/Claudia-Angulo to read the whole conversation. —🌱

Farmers say “no” to mega-merger steamroll

Of the Big 6 seed and pesticide giants, there are three proposed mergers in the works: Dow with Dupont, Monsanto with Bayer, and Syngenta with ChemChina. Despite opposition from several farmer organizations, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and other antitrust agencies around the world seem relatively unconcerned with this ever-increasing concentration in the agrichemical industry.

But it's not over yet—and farmers around the country are ramping up their public opposition to the mergers.

In Iowa, the Iowa Farmers Union and other supporters recently lobbied Senator Chuck Grassley and Attorney General Tom Miller to speak out publicly against the mergers. PAN's

Iowa organizer Carmen Black attended these meetings and helped deliver the message that *more* consolidation is the last thing farmers need:

“We don't need bigger corporate giants peddling more expensive and chemically-intensive products. We need market competition to produce real solutions that get farmers off the pesticide treadmill that was created by these corporations decades ago.”

Share your own message opposing these mega-mergers at www.panna.org/mega-merger. —🌱



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