



Chlorpyrifos Ban: Congress stepping up where EPA failed

by Kristin S. Schafer

In late July, I had a chance to be on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, when legislation was introduced to ban chlorpyrifos. Action on this widely used, brain-harming pesticide is long overdue, and Congress stepped in to finish the job that the new administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refused to get to the finish line.

If a chlorpyrifos ban goes into effect, millions of children and workers in the U.S.—and around the world—will no longer be exposed to an insecticide that's linked to brain damage in children, including reductions in IQ, developmental delays and increased risk of ADHD and autism. Farmworkers will no longer be exposed to the higher levels in the field that can result in tremors, nausea, dizziness and, in extreme cases, death.

National ban legislation is very, very good news, and has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. But what I found most inspiring in DC was the group that gathered to support the chlorpyrifos bills.

Farmworkers, people living near agricultural fields, and children's health advocates flew in from across the country to support banning this pesticide. They met with legislators and spoke at the media event announcing the bills. A leading pediatric researcher, Dr. Philip Landrigan, stepped up to the podium to say there "wasn't a shadow of a doubt" that early life contact with this chemical—especially in the womb—is damaging children's brains.

And our friend from Minnesota, Bonnie Wirtz, told her powerful story of chlorpyrifos exposure in front of the cameras.

Real-life impacts

Bonnie's family was exposed to chlorpyrifos drift in 2012 when they lived on a farm and her son was an infant. The next spray season, she worked with PAN to set up a Drift Catcher in her yard, and documented chlorpyrifos in the air at four times the level of exposure considered "safe" for a one-year-old child.

By that fall, her son began missing his developmental milestones that, until then, he had been meeting like clockwork. Now almost six years old, her son was recently diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental disorder.

In rural communities across the country, many stories of drift exposure like Bonnie's never get told. Farmworker poisonings also continue, like the recent case in a California cauliflower field that sent 18 workers to the emergency room.

There's risk for those who don't live or work in agricultural communities too, since science very clearly shows that even low levels

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Meet PAN's New Board President

Denise O'Brien

A farmer and community organizer from Western Iowa, Denise O'Brien has been a member of our board since 2012. Now, she is stepping into the role of Board President and we are thrilled to be working with her in this capacity.

Denise is an experienced advocate for sustainable food systems at local, state, national and international levels. She has a long history of leadership on agricultural issues and gender equity, including being the founder of the Women, Food and Agriculture Network, serving as president of the National Family Farm Coalition, directing the Rural Women's Leadership Development Project at PrairieFire Rural Action, and being an agriculture advisor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Afghanistan.

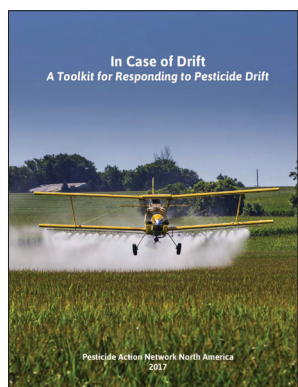
In 2006, Denise ran for Iowa Secretary of State. She also received the 2005 Practical Farmers of Iowa's Sustainable Agricultural Achievement Award and the 2004 Iowa Farmer Union's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Denise remains deeply committed to transforming the food system, and sees her new role with PAN as part of this work:

Food and agriculture are critical to the well-being of our society and should be at the heart of a national conversation. PAN's commitment to serving farmers and agricultural communities in Iowa and across our country is reflected in its ability to build unity and grassroots power. Challenging corporate control and consolidation of our seeds, food, farms and the overuse of harmful chemicals is of utmost importance in today's political climate.

Denise and her husband Larry Harris—a fourth generation farmer—have farmed for over 40 years on the land Larry grew up on. We at PAN are incredibly grateful for her energy and efforts.



Devastating Dicamba Drift

For the second year in a row, farmers in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee are experiencing serious crop damage from exposure to the drift-prone herbicide dicamba. And this year, farmers in Minnesota and Iowa are being hit hard, too.

This is also the second growing cycle that Monsanto's latest genetically engineered seed line—Xtend—has been allowed in fields. Coincidence? Not at all.

Xtend soy and cotton are designed to withstand repeated, heavy applications of both glyphosate (the primary ingredient in Monsanto's RoundUp) and dicamba. With more planting of Xtend seeds comes increased use of dicamba—which is toxic to broadleaf plants, including fruits, nuts, vegetables and non-resistant soybeans.

Dicamba also tends to drift from where it's applied to neighboring fields, causing serious problems for farmers growing anything except dicamba-resistant Xtend crops.

In case of drift

This is a crisis moment for many in the South and Midwest, but drift damage is not a new problem. For years, we at PAN have been working with those directly impacted—farmworkers, farmers and rural families who have experienced health harms or crop

damage from drifting pesticides—and we've been pushing for preventative policies to protect these communities.

Now we have a new tool to help rural residents respond to drift incidents on farms, at work sites and in homes. The "In Case of Drift" toolkit was created to help anyone facing this kind of exposure to agricultural pesticides protect their health and livelihood.

Download or share the toolkit at
www.panna.org/in-case-of-drift

2016–2017 Annual Report



Program Impacts

In fiscal year July 2016–March 2017, PAN ramped up work in our key agricultural states (California, Hawai'i, Iowa and Minnesota) to protect farmworkers, rural communities and pollinators from pesticides. We worked to promote innovative agroecological farming practices and to protect farmers from crop-damaging drift. At the national and international levels, we pressed for action on highly hazardous pesticides, particularly the “Terrible 20” chemicals most harmful to children.

Highlights of the year include:

Stop Drift: In Iowa, state regulators committed to faster response times to drift incidents. In Minnesota, officials asked PAN and our partners to join direct negotiations with industrial potato grower RDO over conversion of pinelands into pesticide-intensive potato fields. In the end, RDO significantly reduced its expansion.

Fair Harvest: PAN's senior scientist Margaret Reeves serves on the board of the Equitable Food Initiative, a certification standard that requires reduced pesticide use and better working conditions for farmworkers. This year, Whole Foods joined Costco as the second major retailer to carry EFI-certified produce, and over 15,000 farmworkers now work for EFI growers.

Healthy Kids: After years of advocacy, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation announced pesticide-free buffer zones around schools and daycare centers in agricultural areas. While the proposal won't fully protect rural children, it is a critical first step.

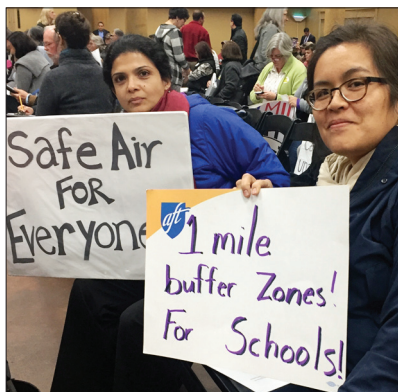
Save Our Bees: As a direct result of our coalition advocacy, Minnesota's governor authorized some of the strongest pollinator protections in the country and PAN's Minnesota organizer Lex Horan was invited to join the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection. Nationwide, fourteen new localities created “Honey Bee Havens” or passed other bee-protective policies.

Financial Report

PAN recognizes all grants, pledges and contributions in the year they are committed. In our fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, we invested 11.0% of total unrestricted revenue (9.9% of expenses) in core support for our mission: administration, fundraising and infrastructure.

Several factors contributed to a drop in revenue this fiscal year, including a decline in grant income (a multi-year funder is spending down), turnover in fundraising staff, and a shorter, nine-month fiscal year. Our current budget has a planned surplus of \$112,000, achieved through focused fundraising, staffing reductions and expense cuts. PAN's Management Team and Board are committed to keeping surplus budgets in place until the deficit is covered and our reserve is rebuilt.

For more information, please see our audited financial statements and our IRS Form 990, available at www.panna.org. The IRS Form 990 is also available on www.GuideStar.org.



PAN's Medha Chandra and Emily Marquez at the DPR buffer zones hearing in Salinas, California.

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2017

Assets

Cash	75,163
Short-term investments	294,092
Accounts receivable	40,129
Grants receivable, net	791,502
Inventory	16,146
Prepays and other receivables	40,532
Property & equipment, net	21,800
Deposits	9,998

Total Assets 1,289,362

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable	17,453
Accrued liabilities	277,174
Custodial fund accounts	229,400

Total Liabilities 524,027

Net Assets

Unrestricted	(203,219)
Temporarily restricted	968,554

Total Net Assets 765,335

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 1,289,362

Statement of Activities for the year ended March 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue and Support			
Grants	35,000	1,074,880	1,109,880
Contributions	436,443	34,041	470,484
Business supporters	5,504	1,000	6,504
Contracts	-	121,581	121,581
Program service fees	10,481	3,346	13,827
Investment income	5,447	-	5,447
Un/realized gain on investment	6,321	-	6,321
Other	3,799	13,162	16,961
Contributed goods & services	3,618	20,779	24,397
Net assets released from restrictions	1,342,283	(1,342,283)	-
Total Revenue and Support	1,848,896	(73,494)	1,775,402
Allocation of Support Program			
Core programs	1,218,607	-	1,218,607
Coalitions	631,320	-	631,320
Total Program	1,850,227	-	1,850,227
Administrative	94,975	-	94,975
Development	108,967	-	108,967
Total Expenses	2,054,169	-	2,054,169
Change in Net Assets	(205,273)	(73,494)	(278,767)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	2,054	1,042,048	1,044,102
Net Assets, End of Year	(203,219)	968,554	765,335

Current Board of Directors

Denise O'Brien
President
Iowa farmer & organizer

Virginia Nesmith
Vice President
Farmworker advocate

Nse Obot Witherspoon
Treasurer
Children's Environmental Health Network

Guy Williams
Secretary
G.O. Williams & Associates

Mary Brune
Children's health activist

Kyra Busch
Christensen Fund

Cheryl Danley
Derenoncourt Consulting

Lupe Martinez
Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment

Kyle Powys Whyte
Michigan State University

Chukou Thao
National Hmong American Farmers

Sapna Elizabeth Thottathil
School Food FOCUS

Executive Director
Kristin S. Schafer

Our Mission

Pesticide Action Network North America works to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.

As one of five PAN Regional Centers worldwide, we link local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. This network challenges the global proliferation of pesticides, defends basic rights to health and environmental quality, and works to ensure the transition to a just and viable society.

We've Moved!

After five years in Oakland, our main office is now at 2029 University Ave, Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704. Please update your mailing lists and databases!



Chlorpyrifos Ban, continued from front page

of exposure—like what's found on the fruits and vegetables we eat, and in the water we drink—can cause neurodevelopmental harms.

In short, all of us will be better off when this pesticide is off the market.

A law we shouldn't need

As Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) made clear in introducing his bill, if EPA were doing its job, congressional action wouldn't be needed. Administrator Pruitt's controversial decision in March to ignore the recommendations of his own scientists and reverse the agency's planned ban of chlorpyrifos serves the interests of no one—except the pesticide's maker, Dow Chemical.

Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), who co-sponsored the House version of the chlorpyrifos ban, underscored this point clearly:

EPA Administrator Pruitt is showing his true colors by protecting big corporations at the expense of public health and safety. It's unconscionable for EPA to turn a blind eye as children and workers are exposed to this poison.

Both of these bills would ban the use of chlorpyrifos, and both should be supported. If one of your senators was among the original co-sponsors, please call and thank them! If they are not yet on board, please ask them to add their name.

Sustain PAN's Work—Give Monthly

When you join PAN as a Sustainer, you become part of a vital group that donates each month to fund grassroots science, collaboration with frontline communities and policy change.



We rely on consistent support from Sustainers to work towards a healthy, fair and resilient system of food and farming.

Become a Sustainer today by going to www.panna.org/give-monthly.



Minnesota partner Bonnie Wirtz (r) and PAN's Kristin Schafer celebrate the introduction of a bill to ban chlorpyrifos with Senator Tom Udall (D-NM).

A congressional briefing on chlorpyrifos is in the works for October, and PAN will continue to support a national ban—as we also pursue our legal strategies, and press for action in California and other states. As Bonnie notes, “By leaving this chemical on the market, we’re gambling with the lives of our children.”

Take Action

Urge your Senators to co-sponsor a national chlorpyrifos ban at www.panna.org/BanChlorpyrifos

Take Action in California

Tell Governor Brown to protect California kids now at www.panna.org/CAChlorpyrifos

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📍 Map your Honey Bee Haven at www.honeybeehaven.org.

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Donate online at www.panna.org/donate.



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