AFF AM Media Summary - Monday, August 23, 2021

From: Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca, Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>
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Sent: August 23, 2021 6:44:54 AM PDT Today's News Online - AFF AM Report

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National Post Monday, August 23, 2021 Page A03 By Taylor Blewett

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District of Summerland discussing a new policy to guide future decisions for water restrictions during emergent situations

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Experts, governments, agree humans are impacting climate

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By Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo, Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream, Theology) and Special Advisor on Indigenous Initiatives, Victoria University, University of Toronto

THE CONVERSATION

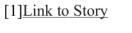
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O'Toole admits some Tories at odds with carbon-pricing plan

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The desk salad migrates from office to suburbs

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Why are wild salmon dying off?

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AFF: End of Day Media Request Report

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Sent: August 24, 2021 4:33:46 PM PDT

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Lila Dussault - La Presse - Montreal

ISSUE: Reports of pesticides spraying that could result in health issues for workers

STATUS: Provided Background

• The responses below provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries' Pesticide Specialist, Kenneth Sapsford.

1. What are the main fungicides and pesticides used in the tree fruit growing industry in British-Columbia, especially in the cherry industry?

In the tree fruit industry in BC there are over 40 insecticides, 60 fungicides, 20 herbicides plus some growth regulators that are registered by Health Canada for use on tree fruit. Not all of these products are registered for use on all fruit types so a grower must choose the product that is registered for control of the pest that they have and on the crop that they need to spray. Not all growers use the same product and growers are recommended to change the product they use to reduce the chance of the pest developing resistance. Therefore, there is no single main pesticide that is used across the industry.

For added context, "pesticide†is a term that includes all products that are used to suppress or control a pest, whether that pest is an insect, disease, weed, mite or other pest. Fungicides control diseases, insecticides control insects, miticides controls mites, herbicides controls weeds, arachnicides controls spiders and so on.

2. What are the regulations concerning the prominent ones? (Are workers supposed to wait before they can access a field that has been sprayed? How long?)

The regulations are that same for all products. All pesticides, whether they are used by the organic grower or a conventional grower, are registered by Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), a division of Health Canada. The label of each product will state how long the workers must wait before they can re-enter the field that has been sprayed. This is known as the Re-entry Interval or REI. Each product will have its own REI and these can vary from 12 hours to 21 days depending on the product.

3. What measures of protection are supposed to be used by the people who work in a field that has been sprayed?

Workers are not supposed to enter or work in the field until after the REI time has expired.

4. Are farmers supposed to spray near people who are not wearing any protection? What can the workers do if it happens?

A pesticide application should not take place if workers are in the same area as the application is happening. If workers are in the area of a pesticide application, it should be reported to Health Canada

and The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as they both have compliance and enforcement personnel that will investigate to determine if the label and the Provincial regulations are followed.

5. What are the health risks on the long-term for people who work in the fungicides and pesticides environment? Are there any specific risks for young people, children, or pregnant women? All pesticides are registered by Health Canada and are only registered once they have reviewed all scientific data to show that the product is safe for the applicator, the bystander and the environment if it is applied according to the label. A pesticide label is a legal document that must be followed. All types of individuals are taken into consideration when the safety of the product is considered.

Richard Zussman - Global TV | BC ISSUE: Minister Popham's Travel STATUS: Referred to Third Party

• handled centrally Thank you! Jill

Jill Hunt
Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Ph: 778.676.4460