Look What's Out There

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What Three Questions Should Parents Ask about Feeding Their Kids?

Q. How often should my kids eat fruits and vegetables?
A. They should eat at least 5 servings a day for good health and to help avoid cancer, heart disease and other health risks. Says who? The American Medical Association, National Cancer Institute, National Academy of Sciences, dieticians, pediatricians and others.

Q. What about pesticides? Is the produce I buy really safe to eat?
A. Yes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Food and Drug Administration(FDA) and state regulatory agencies enforce one of the most stringent regulatory systems in the world to ensure the safety of our produce. Only one in 20,000 chemicals actually survives the eight- to ten-year development, testing and EPA registration process. In fact, pesticides must pass up to 120 EPA-required health, environmental, safety and other tests before they can be used. Once registered for use, a pesticide continues to be monitored by the EPA, FDA and state regulatory agencies.

Q. But just how safe is safe?
A. The following example clearly emphasizes the lifetime safety levels built into our food protection system by the federal government. A 40-lb. child could eat 340 oranges every day for the rest of her life and still not consume the amount of pesticide residues found to cause health problems in laboratory mice.

"Our food supply is not only the safest, but it is the most abundant in the world and pesticides are one of the important tools that have made that abundance possible." Dr. C. Everett Koop, MD., Former Surgeon General of the United States
(CropLife American Publication, 2003)

IPM: Many Definitions, Many Interpretations

The concept of utilizing varied techniques to control pests on a crop is a practice that has been in use for almost as long as mankind has farmed. During the 1950s a group of entomologists at the University of California at Berkeley began formalizing the concept of what was to become integrated pest management, or IPM. The original intent of these entomologists was to integrate the use of pesticides and natural enemies (predators and parasites) to manage insect pests. Today, the term IPM has evolved far beyond this initial concept.

As the formalization of IPM has evolved over the last 40 years, the term became burdened with many definitions and interpretations, often leaving growers, policy makers and the general public confused as to its real meaning.

In a practical sense, IPM is a complex mixture of practices and technologies, specific to a given crop, to control pests. Ultimately though, IPM is an evolutionary process that continues to advance the way growers manage pests to the benefit of society's environmental and economic well-being. In spite of the many definitions, there is common ground with respect to the principles, the tools and the goals of IPM.

Principles of IPM

- A systems approach to managing crops pests.

- Devises strategies to prevent economic pest damage.
- Relies on a balance of techniques to manage pests.

Tools of IPM

- A systems approach to managing crops pests.
- Devises strategies to prevent economic pest damage.
- Relies on a balance of techniques to manage pests.
- Chemical (pesticides, insect growth regulators, pheromones).
- Genetic (sterile release, resistant varieties, transgenic plants).

Goals of IPM

- To ensure production of high quality food and fiber in a sustainable, environmentally sensitive and economical manner.
- To minimize the risks to human health and to the environment.

(CropLife American Publication, 2003)

Pesticide News

*** Syngenta Applies for Registration of Touchdown**

Syngenta Crop Protection Inc. has filed a registration application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its new, third-generation, patented Touchdown glyphosate herbicide with IQ Technology.

This new product is a high-load formulation with a lower average use rate of 24 ounces per acre, versus the current recommended rate of 32 ounces.

According to Bill Beutke, brand manager, Syngenta anticipates registration later this year. The registration should cover all uses that are currently on the Touchdown label. This new formulation is not yet registered with the U.S. EPA. Further information is available at www.syngenta.com. (Citrus & Vegetable Magazine, Nov. 2003).

*** Bayer Expects New Fungicide Registration**

Vegetable and potato growers soon will have an effective new fungicide to add to their disease-management arsenal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has accepted Reason-brand fungicide for review as a reduced-risk fungicide. Bayer CropScience expects registration of the product in 2003 for lettuce, tomatoes, cucurbits, onions and potatoes.

Reason is a locally systemic, foliar fungicide that stops disease development at more sites of action within the disease life cycle. It also acts against both the direct and indirect germination cycles of many key diseases for more effective and reliable control.

Reason will be registered to control lettuce downy mildew; cucurbit downy mildew and Alternaria leaf spot; and onion downy mildew and purple blotch; as well as early and late blights of tomatoes and potatoes. (Citrus & Vegetable Magazine, Nov. 2003).

*** DuPont Crop Protection is shifting research focus from herbicides to insecticides and fungicides.** The potential for herbicide sales has declined since the introduction of Roundup® resistant crops. The company is also interested in gene regulation and growth enhancement products. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 9/22/03, via Chemically Speaking News)