

Chat Transcript from Pesticides & the Chesapeake Bay Conference December 2, 2020 – Day 3 Session

Chat question: How do you balance the benefits of pesticides, including biocides, with your own concerns for personal safety and environmental care in your personal life?

- 10:05:28 **From Marjorie Roswell :** I want to learn more about the toxicity of disinfectants.
- 10:05:38 **From Bonnie Raindrop :** I have been watching the labels on disinfecting products much more closely. There are a lot of options that are actually on the safer list
- 10:06:07 **From Bonnie Raindrop :** But I have noticed you have different times to allow them to work on surfaces
- 10:06:10 **From D' Williams :** I try to use natural and other integrated methods to address my needs.
- 10:06:32 **From Veronika Carella :** We need to use the most appropriate products and only if the need is present or evident. Discretionary uses of disinfectants, sanitizers and pesticides should no longer be prioritized over public health. Health must be considered in all decisions.
- 10:06:37 **From MMatsche :** My lawn and home do not involve the use of any pesticides. During the pandemic I only use soap and water for personal use and dilute bleach for household use.
- 10:06:40 **From Bonnie Raindrop :** As I learn about pesticides I pay more attention to buying organic foods and products
- 10:06:41 **From Elvia Thompson :** There are disinfectants that don't harm the environment. We always go for "overkill"-- no pun intended.
- 10:06:44 **From Mike Ichniowski-Maryland AAP :** I have learned to look for the safest products for the job, make sure to use it correctly and share what I have learned with others
- 10:06:46 **From amonjan :** It is an assessment of risks to benefits when no alternatives are available.
- 10:06:53 **From Cleo Braver :** As an organic farmer, I only use natural pesticides not synthetic ones. All crops farmed in MD can be farmed that way.
- 10:06:54 **From Simin Rezai :** I use only alcohol as disinfectant.
- 10:07:03 **From Roger Williams :** In thinking of pesticides in soil, I tend to think the microbes are doing what they do. If my plants are not healthy, they will be attacked. What keeps them healthy? That's mine to try to understand
- 10:07:10 **From bonnie stinman :** avoid all pesticides on garden
- 10:07:12 **From Richard :** I believe the highest cancer rate category of workers are domestic housecleaner folks. They spray cleaners. Is that true?
- 10:07:15 **From Susan Beal :** Why use a flame thrower if you can use a feather to achieve the same end. The feather may require a little bit different handling than the flame thrower, but it can certainly be equally effective.
- 10:07:34 **From Kolya Braun-Greiner :** Using plain soap for disinfectant works fine. We don't need "antibacterial" solutions since that gets into our water system.
- 10:07:39 **From Donna Scott :** we use products that do not contain pesticides - we use peroxide based disinfectant and we also follow IPM
- 10:07:59 **From Susan Beal :** Why use a flame thrower if you can use a feather to achieve the same end. The feather may require a little bit different handling than the flame thrower, but it can certainly be equally effective.
- 10:08:01 **From Ruth Berlin :** Way to go Donna!
- 10:08:07 **From Andrew Mackenzie Fellows :** I look to avoid or minimize pesticides wherever possible, and educate others to consider the path to beyond pesticides.
- 10:08:25 **From Cleo Braver :** Anybody can go to the USDA's National Organic Program to learn about natural pesticides if they are not sure what they can use.

10:08:28 **From bonnie stainman** : buy more organic fruits, Vegas
10:08:30 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : I have noticed a lot more safer pesticides on store shelves and at garden centers since the neon's were banned, lots of options
10:08:43 **From Marjorie Roswell** : Would be great if there were some type of "litmus paper" for pesticides. People would "get it" if they knew what they were about to eat had pesticides in it.
10:08:55 **From Eric Duce** : propane flame throwers are very effective at spot treating weeds
10:09:02 **From Kolya Braun-Greiner** : Our community Takoma Park has a Safe Grow policy for lawncare.
10:09:37 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : We can ask our local governments to go ecological in pest management
10:09:47 **From Veronika Carella** : We also need to promote non-chemical solutions, such as UV light in HVAC systems, rather than mists or sprays.
10:11:01 **From Andrew Mackenzie Fellows** : I look to avoid or minimize pesticides wherever possible, and educate others to consider the path to beyond pesticides.

10:14:39 **From Marjorie Roswell** : Would be great to offer the same content in video form!
10:14:52 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : We will post a link for this on the conference webpage
10:15:18 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Yes, all our presentations this year are videoed and available,-- stay tuned for a link
10:15:44 **From Marjorie Roswell** : I'm talking about the Farmer Information Kit,-- to get that out in video form.
10:18:33 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Ah! Great idea! We'll take that to the Agriculture working group!
10:25:19 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Would LOVE to have more organic apples in Maryland!!!
10:26:58 **From Richard** : Does Washington grow Stayman or Winesap apples?
10:30:18 **From Marjorie Roswell** : Ooh, would be great to demo the software risk tool in the Farmer Information Kit video
10:31:23 **From Richard** : do golf courses use IPM? Are there any "organic" golf courses?
10:33:45 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Great ideas Margie!
10:33:59 **From Marjorie Roswell** : That makes so much sense. Don't spray if you don't have the insect problem. What percentage of farms use these traps?
10:34:06 **From Richard** : Where do the pollinators go when we mow the dandelions? Do the bees die? Are boxes moved elsewhere?
10:35:14 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : The bees find other forage, plenty in spring and summer, just don't want to offer them poisoned forage
10:36:30 **From Marjorie Roswell** : PRT = Pesticide Risk Tool
10:45:42 **From lukegoembel** : If neonics are the only thing that works, what did farmers use before 1990, before neonics were sold?
10:46:40 **From Cleo Braver** : There are not many, but there are some organic apple growers in MD.

Chat question: What do you consider a high priority Best Management Practice (BMP) that would help protect the Bay, people and pollinators ?

10:48:31 **From MMatsche** : For the Bay, we need far more buffer to reduce runoff.
10:48:43 **From Susan Beal** : @Cleo - also right at the state line into PA, Gettysburg area
10:49:07 **From Cleo Braver** : Fantastic practice for landowners is to put in CRP and CREP buffer strips (warm season grasses, trees and shrubs) around their fields, or to put in wetlands, woodlands, pollinator strips. They are all funded by USDA - both installation and maintenance!
10:49:16 **From Veronika Carella** : A high priority BMP would be to suspend the use of turf-pesticides that are documented (in Product Label) to migrate into ground water. This would include suspending ALL discretionary applications of such turf-pesticides.
10:49:29 **From Mary Travaglini** : More regulation from MDE to reduce pesticide risks. Appreciate that we have more than most states, but far too many approved chemicals and not enough focus on safety.

10:49:35 **From Simin Rezai** : Protection Bay means protection people and pollinators.
10:49:58 **From Dedra Salitrik** : Less lawn, more pollinator friendly native plant groupings
10:50:03 **From bonnie staiman** : reduce lawns, replace with trees, plants
10:50:04 **From Rob Jenkins** : lawn reduction (green desert) reduction, replacement with native
plantings and developing connected micro-ecosystems within communities
10:50:12 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Elimination of most toxic, like chlorpyrifos, with education of
growers to these alternatives
10:50:32 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Pollinator gardens instead of lawns
10:51:12 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : We need to realize the cost of „perfection,“
10:51:18 **From Ruth Berlin** : OUR STATE HOUSE GROUNDS IS A MODEL OF ORGANIC
LANDCARE
10:51:19 **From Richard** : Golf courses?
10:51:22 **From Eric Duce** : Buffers are so important, but a lot of my work abuts to private
property and subject to how the homeowner wants to maintain their land. It can be tough explaining how
buffers are better and more aesthetically pleasing than maintained turf. Finding room in suburbia can be
difficult.
10:51:25 **From Roger Williams** : Explore the relationship between pesticide use and USDA-
sponsored crop insurance programs
10:52:16 **From Ruth Berlin** : The state house grounds is a model for organic landcare
10:52:27 **From Sadie Francis** : there’s one organic golf course that I know of in Martha’s
Vineyard
10:52:33 **From Mary Travaglini** : A demo organic public golf course would go a LONG way to
showing what's possible.
10:52:40 **From Ruth Berlin** : A program with DGS and Md Pesticide Education Network
10:52:41 **From Dedra Salitrik** : Storm water management practices on individual home properties
10:53:07 **From Mary Travaglini** : Yes, that's the only one...we could be a leader here.
10:53:14 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : The “true price” of pesticides translates to water quality costs,
healthcare and many other real costs
10:53:16 **From Cleo Braver** : Home lawns cover almost as much acreage as farm fields. But it is
on significantly higher number of parcels and people think they can’t make a difference. If all homeowners
recognized their individual opportunity to collectively transform things, it would have a giant impact.
10:53:16 **From Susan Beal** : Opening conversations with the folks who are looking at risk
management around climate change. Many of them are really looking hard at flooding (eg Feltmate et al at
the University of Waterloo) - and functional lawns, agricultural lands, do much to alter the movement of
water over the lands and also do much to retain water in positive manners. It’s a win win win.. and it’s a
project that can help / involve the homeowner as well as the agricultural and recreational sectors
10:53:59 **From Ellen West** : How to talk to builders.
10:54:11 **From Dedra Salitrik** : Better marketing of local organic produce
10:55:05 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Taking a look at land use requirements, like numbers of trees
and buffers re: to development so they are current with today’s needs and knowledge
10:56:20 **From Ana Rule** : Thanks Cottingham farm for your efforts to reduce pesticides in the
environment!!
11:04:22 **From Greg Allen** : Questions for Cleo welcomed in Q&A
11:04:29 **From Susan Beal** : Carbon sequestration in the deep strata liquid carbon (microbially
mediated) also creates permanent (not transient) sequestration of carbon at the deep soil levels. In these
actively sequestering perennial foragelands, the carbon is higher as you move more deeply into the soil.
Often though, that carbon, is only measured in the top six or ten inches (or less) of the soil profile.
11:07:50 **From D' Williams** : Could you talk a little about the excessive use of herbicides on many
"Roundup Ready" crops?
11:14:22 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Rewarding Certified Organic growers would likely help those
growers expand their acreage and production. Both carbon and
11:14:38 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Reduction of pesticides would be a dual benefit

11:15:54 **From Susan Beal** : Re what to do: It makes sense to me to stop phrasing things (like buffers vs lawns) as an either or sort of land use. It makes more sense to continue to remind that all of these components that are typically thought of as separate are really not ! It's all connected and you can't rob Peter to pay Paul. Or Mike. Or Harry. It's a closed ecology - all on one planet. So, back to buffers in the populated areas, ¶. It's not that the homeowner / business owner is taking that , buffer,  out of their usable area - and it's not that the , lawn,  is not functional as a buffer, either *IF* that lawn area is managed in more positive ways, with geographically appropriate inputs around fertility, choice of plants used, functional soil health, tolerance for other than , neat, short lawns,  in the local regulations, ecological services that healthy and functional lawns can provide (and how lawns are better than some , scapes, including stone over barriers, mulches, and impermeable surfaces.)

11:16:41 **From bonnie stainman** : how do recommendations affect n and p

11:17:46 **From bonnie stainman** : n and p controls for bay wip

11:18:07 **From HG Doebel** : Once the soil has sequestered all the possible Carbon, there will be a dynamic equilibrium. So, after this point has been reached

11:18:41 **From Susan Beal** : Pasture raised does not mean that the animal was actually on the pasture (for example, poultry needs to have access to pasture, but doesn't need to actually get onto the pasture !). Same so w/ cattle, they can be on pasture that's bald as a billiard table with forage carried to them and still be called pastured raised. And pasture raised does not equal grass fed. This is a huge misconception.

11:18:44 **From HG Doebel** : So, after this equilibrium has been reached, no more extra Carbon will be taken up. So, this is only an intermediate term solution.

11:18:58 **From Susan Beal** : huge misconception,... typing too fast ! :))

11:20:32 **From Susan Beal** : Methane on pastured land w/ ruminants is not a huge issue when you factor in the total lifecycle and the function of the methane using organisms in the local environment

11:23:13 **From Bonnie Raindrop** : Methane is certainly increased by CAFO's feeding cattle corn that is the wrong diet and causing them GI problems

11:26:10 **From Susan Beal** : Re methane on managed pastured land. I see my comment missed letters. Methane on well managed pastured lands is not a huge issue when you factor in the total lifecycle and the functional methane using organisms in the local environment.

11:27:02 **From Susan Beal** : Thanks all. This was an interesting morning and I very much appreciate the information both Cleo and Tom provided. Lots of excellent references, too. See you tomorrow

11:27:38 **From bonnie stainman** : Cleo talk ground breaking

11:28:05 **From Susan Beal** : December 3, right ? Not the 9th ?!

11:28:26 **From Clean Water Action** : The next one is next Wednesday.

11:28:58 **From Ruth Berlin** : Susan Beal-its dec 9th for our final conference session - see you then!

11:29:23 **From Susan Beal** : Ah. Thanks. I was confused dates. Juggling too many meetings.

11:29:44 **From Ana Rule** : thanks and good to see everyone!

11:30:00 **From Roger Williams** : Thanks to all!

11:30:01 **From Rylee Kennedy** : Thank you so much!

11:30:13 **From sheen goldberg** : Thank you glad I finally made it. Great Session