



PesticideSmart News - Vote With Your Wallet & Your Fork

February 2017 Newsletter

Greetings!

Our foremost concern this month is blocking Scott Pruitt, President Trump's appointment to head the EPA. Pruitt has a record of anti-science and anti-environment policies. We urge you to call your Senators as soon as possible and voice your concerns before his vote goes before the full Senate.

Regardless of who ends up running the EPA, we are looking at potentially four years of anti-science and anti-environment actions under the current Trump administration, including likely and dangerous Bayer-Monsanto and Dow-Dupont mergers. And the recent listing of the Rusty Bumble Bee as an endangered species by US Fish and Wildlife Service may be revoked.

Still, positive change is possible! An unofficial resistance team within the US EPA has started a rogue twitter account to keep accurate scientific information flowing, no matter what. And in this newsletter, you'll find several tips about fighting climate change, pesticide-reliant farming, the agrochemical industry - and protecting your health - with your fork and your wallet.

We appreciate your feedback on our monthly newsletter!: info@mdpestnet.org

Take Action!

Take Actions This Month to Make Your Voice Heard!

The Nation



Our shared concerns regarding pesticide use and impacts transcend our political affiliation. **The nominee for US EPA Secretary, Scott Pruitt, known as a climate change denier and known for his close ties to the oil and gas industry concerns us.**

[According to the Daily Beast](#), ***"No one has ever headed the EPA with Pruitt's level of anti-science, anti-environmental record, which includes multiple lawsuits against the EPA intended to prevent the EPA from doing its job... Under a Secretary Pruitt, the EPA can***

simply fail to enforce all environmental laws by firing people and cutting enforcement budgets... adopt new standards that lower the value of a human life when being factored into cost-benefit analysis” for EPA’s review of toxic chemicals. **Such actions could stop regulation of toxic chemicals entirely.** Pruitt is likely to change standards for registering pesticides, raising amounts of [toxic] pesticides deemed acceptable for agriculture, food, landscaping, etc., and remove various chemicals from regulations under toxic substances control statutes. A frightening scenario, but by making our voices heard and taking certain actions– together– we can have an impact.

Call your [senators](#) and [congressmen](#) and ask them to represent your interests by voting against:

- Cabinet nominees that oppose regulating toxic chemicals, including pesticides, and;
- Policies that weaken efforts to slow down climate change, undermine our civil rights, our Right to Know and freedom of the press.

Ask them to fight for laws and policies that address the need to protect the health of people, wildlife and our environment from the hazards of pesticides and toxic chemicals.

In Maryland

If you haven’t already, **please tell ACE Hardware and other Maryland retailers to STOP selling bee-killing pesticide treated plants and seeds.** [Sign our petition now.](#)



The Vote with Your Fork & Your Wallet Campaign: We are in a critical time, when our collective choices can unintentionally hasten climate change, increase the power of the pesticide industry and all industries reliant on pesticide use. Organic soil sequesters carbon. When we purchase organic food we increase the demand for healthier, more widely available, less-expensive organic food – thereby increasing the trend for rural and urban farms to transition to organic food production. For many people, increasing their organic purchases will mean sacrificing spending elsewhere--but it may also reduce our healthcare expenditures down the road.



Our future will depend on how we vote with our wallets. By purchasing organic food and products, we each also impact the GMO market because organic products do not contain genetically engineered inputs. **Go Organic!**

Please support our work on protecting our Babies, Bees & the Bay:

DONATE

Bee Buzz

Why Scientists are Worried about the GMO Potato and Apple

Here's another good reason to avoid genetically modified food. **AVOID** Apples and potatoes genetically modified so that they don't brown. This study found that this genetic modification showed a staggering gene change in bees fed with the gene used in the apples and potatoes. The study concluded that such a massive change "undoubtedly" triggered changes in the bees' development, physiology, and behavior. Are they the canaries in the mine? [Read more.](#)



Bumblebee now listed as endangered species for the first time. [Read more.](#) [This important video is also worth watching.](#)

Neonicotinoid pesticides keep bees from buzzing properly, making it much more difficult for them to release pollen from certain flowers, such as tomatoes and potatoes, and thus fertilize these plants. [Read more.](#)

Pesticide News

Our RoundUp Exposure

New findings on the world's top-selling pesticide and the harm it does to your liver. [Read more.](#)

Mother's Milk and the Environment

Might chemical exposures impair lactation? [Read more.](#)





Trump Is Ready to Bless Monsanto and Bayer's Massive Merger

Bloomberg News calls it the world's "biggest-ever" merger of agribusiness companies—a move antitrust experts say is “highly irregular.” [Read more.](#)

California about to label Roundup (glyphosate) a cancer-causing herbicide. [Read more.](#)

The [@altUSEPA](#) account on Twitter is the **unofficial "resistance" team of EPA** that seeks to maintain the agency's transparency in the face of Trump's gag orders. [Follow them.](#)



Tips for Healthy Living



The Surprising Winter Plants that Backyard Birds Absolutely Love

Turns out, our feathered friends are big fans of evergreens. [Read more.](#)

Want to know what the most **potentially toxic skin care products** are if you don't buy organic? [Read more.](#)

New project helps people develop a more "climate-healthy" diet. [Read more.](#)



Please help us continue to protect our Babies, Bees and the Bay.

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