

Sept 9, 2019

To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

We would like to invite you to a Town Hall Meeting to be held Sept 28th at Matilija Auditorium in Ojai, 3-6pm. Doors open at 2:15pm. Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson will be joining us at the event. We are asking that you all attend and participate.

From a report produced by Wishtoyo Foundation, **Agritoxins: Ventura County's Toxic Time Bomb**”:

“Harmful and even deadly exposures can reach our farm worker community as well as our families. Toxic pesticide “agritoxin” use in Ventura County is polluting the air we breathe and the water we drink. Agritoxin refers to the toxic pesticides used in agriculture.”

“This report demonstrates that (1) some of the most hazardous agritoxins are widely used in Ventura County agriculture; (2) these chemicals are extremely toxic and have been linked to numerous adverse health effects, including neurological impairment, birth defects, infertility and cancer; (3) in Ventura County, the general public, farmworkers, children, and elderly are readily exposed to agritoxins; and, (4) agritoxins pollute our air, water, and soil.”

“Agritoxins can cause both short and long term adverse health effects in humans. Examples of acute health effects include severe headaches, blindness, blisters, diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, rashes, stinging eyes, and death. Longterm (chronic) adverse health effects include birth defects, cancer, and immunotoxicity, as well as neurological and developmental impairment. Disruption of the endocrine system is another chronic adverse health effect caused by pesticides. Some pesticides mimic the effects of natural human hormones, especially estrogen and thyroxine.”

One of the toxic synthetic pesticides being sprayed in Ojai in the orchards, a pyrethroid insecticide, Danitol, contains fenprothrin, is a dopaminergic neurotoxin, linked to causing Parkinson's' disease. It is also highly toxic to bees. Exposure Symptoms of exposure to pyrethroid pesticides include: **“nasal stuffiness, headache, nausea, incoordination, tremors, convulsions, facial flushing and swelling, and burning and itching sensations.”**

Chemical WATCH Factsheet for Beyond Pesticides,
<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito/documents/SyntheticPyrethroids.pdf>

This is just one of the dangerous products that are being sprayed in Ojai. There are people and animals in Ojai who are being poisoned.

Last month, Diane Ladd, who lives in the midst of the spraying in Ojai, came to speak to you, and because of time constraints, she was cut short. She spoke briefly about her dog having seizures, and about her own serious health issues, due to the toxic pesticide pollution in our air in the Ojai Valley, especially in the East End. Not one of you asked her a question or expressed concern. I was here for hours of the meeting after she spoke. I watched some of you ask questions of people after their time was up. I was extremely disappointed that no one followed up with a woman who came to you for help.

A prominent lawyer that was contacted concerning this situation said that the first sign that a town is being poisoned is when dogs start having seizures.

We would like to meet with all of you, each of you, to discuss this serious life-threatening situation that is going on in your county. We are asking to protect the health and well being of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

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The Good News is that there are healthy solutions.

According to Dr. Elaine Ingham, renowned soil microbiologist, the answer is to maximize the diversity and strength of the life in the soil. When you have healthy, biologically alive soil and a healthy ecosystem, pests and disease-causing organisms are not a problem. The link to one of Dr. Ingham's videos:

<http://soilfoodwebcourse.com/what-every-farmer-needs-to-know.../>

Especially listen to section: from 11:58 to about 13:46

1. Stanley Thornton, a colleague of Dr. Ingham, has developed a line of soil amendments, foliar sprays and microbes that he has used to bring dying trees back to productivity.*
2. Uday Philar of Sequoia Bio Sciences (www.sequoiabio.com) in India and American collaborator John Peter Abt of Terawet (www.terawet.com), report that he has successfully reversed the greening disease.*
3. Steve Pavich, with BioFlora (www.Bioflora.com), a long time organic farmer, is experimenting with a combination of nutrients that will prevent the disease bacteria (liberobacter) from establishing in the plant.*

***References:** Healthy Citrus article in Acres, USA by Ron Whitehurst, May 2015

Transition to Organics

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