



# the Naysprayer

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

## Oregon's Pesticide Use Reporting System Faces Cut

In the last issue of the *Naysprayer*, we reported on the incredible success of Oregon's Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS). Last summer, Oregon released its first report documenting both urban and rural pesticide use during the 2007 year. Now, NCAP is working hard to ensure the program continues. We believe all states need a comprehensive tracking program.

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's budget proposes cutting PURS under the state's 2009 budget shortfall, although Kulongoski says he supports the program and intends to reinstate it when the economy improves.

Getting PURS established was not an easy task. In 1999, Oregon passed a law mandating that the state track pesticide use. But PURS was not fully funded until 2005.

During the years of insufficient funding, NCAP and allies worked hard to secure program dollars. Those years of work created a strong coalition of supporters, including farmers, doctors, drinking water providers and many others.

When the first PURS data were released, it was a time to celebrate. The PURS data highlighted an opportunity for farmers to limit the use of a harmful fumigant, metam-sodium. Metam-sodium is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a "probable human carcinogen." It also made up 42 percent of Oregon's pesticide use (by pounds) in 2007.

The PURS data made it clear that Oregon can significantly reduce

metam-sodium use by helping farmers convert to healthier, cost-effective alternatives. NCAP has already helped farmers in Idaho shift away from its use with a "green manure" alternative (growing a mustard crop and tilling it into the soil).

Fortunately, Oregon applicators must still report their 2008 pesticide use by Jan. 31, 2009. But they will not have to report pesticide use in 2009 if the program is "put on the shelf," according to Lauren Henderson, assistant director of Oregon Department of Agriculture.

NCAP Water Quality Coordinator Aimee Code says, "The benefits of PURS are obvious. In these difficult economic times, the governor needs to know the public wants PURS to continue uninterrupted."

One way PURS could be funded is to increase pesticide registration fees paid by manufacturers. NCAP is asking concerned people to contact Governor Ted Kulongoski to let him know there is strong public support to continue PURS by providing stable funds. Oregon lawmakers will make the final budget decisions beginning in January.

### Contact Gov. Ted Kulongoski:

Send letter to:

160 State Capitol,

900 Court St.,

Salem, OR 97301-4047

Call the Governor's Message Line at (503) 378-4582.

E-mail through his website at:

[http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/contact\\_us.shtml](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/contact_us.shtml)



### Meet Kim Leval, our New Executive Director!

We welcome Kim Leval as NCAP's new Executive Director!

Kim brings to NCAP 20 years of non-profit experience including advocacy, policy development, grassroots organizing, fundraising and program development.

Kim was the senior policy analyst for 10 years at the Center for Rural Affairs. There, she advocated for stronger support of sustainable and organic agriculture both at the federal level and in the western region.

One of her focus areas was on getting federal and land grant college research institutions to fund and conduct research for alternatives to pesticides.



Most recently, Kim held the position of Fund Development Director with Rural Development Initiatives.

Kim looks forward to leading NCAP. She says, "I can't wait to begin this new journey with all of you. This is important work."

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# Annual Meeting Celebration

NCAP's 31st Annual Meeting was a success, with NCAP bingo, desserts galore, and information about our various programs displayed on colorful presentation boards. Our **Rachel Carson Award for Excellence in Pesticide Reduction** went to **Tim Stock**. Tim is the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Education Specialist with Oregon Extension Services in Corvallis.

Tim partnered with NCAP to document effective nonchemical parks maintenance practices — reviewing four report drafts and arranging interviews and presentations.

Tim has also agreed to work with NCAP on a project to establish a parks maintenance peer network. Thank you, Tim!



Norma Grier awards Tim Stock of the OSU Extension Service the 2008 Rachel Carson award for Excellence in Pesticide Reduction.



NCAP workstudy student Robert Kirkpatrick greeted our guests.



Generous donations from our sponsors created this impressive spread.

## Thanks to all of our sponsors!

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## WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

www.pesticide.org

### PESTICIDES IN THE NEWS

- Creosote in railroad ties: EPA should ban use in landscaping
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma linked to herbicides
- Prostate cancer in Vietnam vets linked to Agent Orange

### Alternatives Factsheets

- Fruitflies
- Sowbugs

### General Factsheet

Minimum Risk Pesticides

# Idaho Goes More Organic

**F**armers with just a couple of years experience in organic farming and those considering transitioning from conventional to organic attended three NCAP events in Idaho recently: two field days in September and one workshop in November.

With the help of NCAP and our partners, more than 135 people learned about possible markets, production practices, and the organic certification process.

NCAP partnered with Potato Growers of Idaho, and Potandon Produce, Inc. on the two September field days. This late season farm tour allowed visitors to see the potatoes just as they were ready to be harvested.

Potato Growers of Idaho is a growers organization and Potandon Produce, Inc. is a potato supplier. The organic farmers were Fred Brossy of Shoshone, Idaho, and Kris Taylor of Idaho Falls.

Brossy has been farming organically since 1996. He spoke about the importance of rotating his

crops for nutrient and pest management. Taylor shared his new experiences with organic farming, as he just finished his second year of growing organic potatoes.



Joining the farmers in the field was Alec McErlich, an agricultural research and development manager for Small Planet Foods. He discussed organic production methods. Small Planet Foods sells organic produce under the Cascadian Farms and Muir Glen brands.

Following the September field days, NCAP held a workshop in November in Idaho Falls. Nearly 60 people gathered to learn about organic potato,

wheat, hay, livestock feed crops, and specialty crop markets from the experts. Lowell Rheinheimer from Organic Valley talked about a new three-year guaranteed price contract for farmers who grow feed crops, because of the demand for organic hay, for example. David Oien, organic farmer and manager of Timeless Seeds, shared information on his 20-plus years in the organic specialty food business, including crops such as peas, lentils, flax, and heirloom grains. Jim Barngrover of Barnstormers, Inc. discussed organic wheat

markets and current opportunities. Idaho Falls area speakers from Potandon Produce, Eagle Eye Produce, and a dehydrated potato flake company also talked about the emerging organic potato market in Idaho.

The events were successful. According to Dave Horner, an organic farmer from Paul, Idaho, “NCAP’s workshop was great. It helped me to see other options for my rotation. While I’m sticking with organic alfalfa and wheat right now, David Oien was very informative and I’m considering options like dry beans. The workshop really helped me plan for next year.”

## SUPER VOLUNTEER REX FOX

Rex Fox first became involved with NCAP when his term on the parent council of a local high school was up and he found some spare time on his hands. A fellow council member worked at NCAP and he became familiar with the organization through her. Plus, he thought, “Bush got elected and I needed to put some effort into environmental activities.”

For the past seven years, Rex has sifted through the piles of periodicals that arrive in the NCAP office, looking for pesticide-related articles and flagging them so they can then be distributed to appropriate staff or added to NCAP’s extensive research library.

He’s also staffed the NCAP information table at various events.

Even though the United States will now have a new president, Rex will



continue to volunteer.

“Not only do I feel like I am able to provide a little value to NCAP—an organization I really admire,” says Rex, but by reading all those magazines, he says he’s “learned a lot about all sorts of environmental issues.”

## STAFF UPDATE



Shelly Connor and Megan Kemple

We welcome Shelly Connor to NCAP as our new Organic Food in Schools and Pesticide-free Parks coordinator. We thank Megan Kemple and wish her good luck in her new endeavors with the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition.





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## TAKE ACTION!



### A Pesticide-free Lawn for the First Puppy

A new job, a new puppy, and a new house. President Obama has a lot on his mind, including the health of his family and new pet.

One small action he can make in his new home is to eliminate the use of pesticides on the White House lawn. By making that happen, Obama will not only limit the chance of pesticide exposure to his family, but he will set an example to the entire country that pesticides are not necessary to have a great lawn.

Please visit <http://change.gov/page/s/yourvision> to send President Obama an email urging him to make the White House lawn pesticide-free today. You can also learn how to make your own lawn pesticide-free at [www.pesticide.org/lawns.pdf](http://www.pesticide.org/lawns.pdf)

## Agent Orange Linked to Prostate Cancer in Vietnam Veterans

### DID YOU KNOW?

**A**gent Orange has been linked to an increased risk of prostate cancer in Vietnam veterans. In a study of more than 13,000 male veterans, those who were exposed to Agent Orange were twice as likely to have prostate cancer as those who were not exposed.

The Agent Orange-exposed veterans also fared worse in other respects: They were diagnosed with prostate cancer at a younger age, were twice as likely to develop an aggressive form of the cancer, and were three times more likely to have cancer that had already spread (metastasized) by the time they saw the doctor.

Researchers considered individual factors that might affect prostate cancer risk including the known risks of African-

American heritage or family history of this cancer. They concluded that Agent Orange exposure stood out as an independent risk factor and called for the medical community to increase screening for these men.

This study was notable as being the largest study of Agent Orange and prostate cancer. The veterans, entering their sixties, were reaching the age when prostate cancer typically develops. The availability of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) screening greatly enhanced diagnosis and tracking of this cancer. The researchers examined medical records of men enrolled in the VA Northern California Health Care System who were followed between 1998 and 2006.

Agent Orange was the most widely used herbicide in the Vietnam war, with

more than 19 million pounds applied over forests and fields of Vietnam between 1962 and 1971. Exposure to Agent Orange has been linked to several kinds of cancer — Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, soft tissue sarcomas, and now prostate cancer.

Agent Orange — a 50:50 mixture of the herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T — was contaminated with the toxic chemical TCDD. Popularly known as “dioxin,” TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) is classified as a chemical known to cause cancer in humans.

*See footnote and sources at:*  
[www.pesticide.org/hhg/agentorangeprostate.html](http://www.pesticide.org/hhg/agentorangeprostate.html)

