

Communicating Pesticide Risk

- Listen and hear citizens concerns
 - If the public perceives the risk as real, then it must be treated seriously.
- Be prepared to answer questions
 - *Toxicology For the Citizen* by Alice Marczewski and Michael Kamrin
 - *Reporting on Risk. A Journalist's Handbook on Environmental Risk Assessment.* By Michael Kamrin, D. Katz, M. Walter
- We must be prepared to challenge misinformation regarding pesticides.

“Report Links Pesticides with Immune System Problems”

CHEM-TOX.COM

Pesticides=Immune system problems

Cites - Science News
March 9, 1996

Science News states –
After translating old Russian documents-Children (living in areas where there was excessive residue in the water, soil, and food crops) were experiencing elevated rates of respiratory diseases (pneumonia etc.).
Science News further states that the pesticide residues MAY be the cause.

Cites - Science News
February 12, 1994

Science News states –
Inuit women have been shown to have high concentrations of PCB's in their breast milk after eating PCB contaminated fish and blubber. “Though studies have shown that such high concentrations of PCB's in breast milk can impair brain development, Ayotte says his preliminary studies of Inuit children indicate that they are developing normally.”

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

- “...areas in Michigan with vector control had a 40X's reduced risk of WNV infection in people, compared to areas without vector control.” Dr. Edward Walker, MSU
- “Our fears of spraying may be more deadly than pesticides.” Oakland Press 10-4-02
- “Anyone who is going to die from the West Nile virus is going to be already so old or so sick that they would die from the spray anyway,” Robert duRivage, in the Oakland Press 10-15-02

You can please all of the people some of the time, some of the people all the time, but you can't please all of the people all the time.



**The needs
of the many
outweigh the
needs of the few
-
or the one.**

Respect Individual Preferences

- No-Sprays
 - Chemical Sensitive Registry (MDA)
 - Neighbors to No-Sprays
- Medical Certification
 - Allergies to insect bites
- Bee Keepers
 - More than 50% allow spraying after bees return to hives at night. Most of the large bee keepers allow this program.
- Priority Programs
 - Outdoor businesses, *Bti* distribution, school sports activities, special events, search and inform.

Does Public Education work?

Comments from teachers...

- My students left the presentation pumped up, we came back to our classroom and had an awesome discussion on what we had learned.
- Thank you so much for providing this program, it matches our content standards for science.
- I would have loved to hear an upper grade presentation too. I learned new things from the primary presentation right along with my students.
- ...parents and the community in general would learn from this presentation.
- I couldn't wait to impress my family with what I learned!

Does Public Education work?

These comments come from 2nd and 3rd grade students.

- I learned not to leave water in my pool or in bird baths. Now I can go tell my mom what I learned.
- Now I know that mosquitoes live in water first.
- I learned that you should dump out everything that has water in it.

Does Public Education work?

These comments come from 2nd and 3rd grade students.

“When my mom drops me off
at school or when we drive around
I see old tires on the ground
with water in them,
so that means lots of people
don’t know about mosquitoes.”

Mosquitoes

By: Crystal C.
4th grade – Freeland Elementary

Mosquitoes, mosquitoes
they live in any flood.
So, drain your buckets and your pails,
or they will suck your blood.
First, they spit this enzyme,
when they find a vein.
They stick their mouth into a hole,
and find “mosquito” champagne.



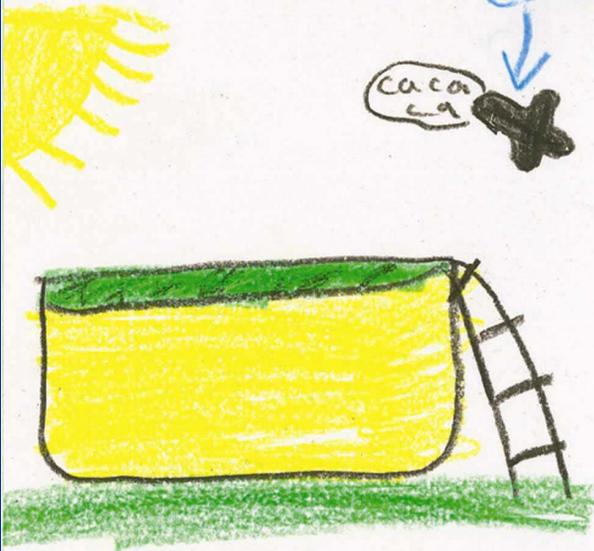
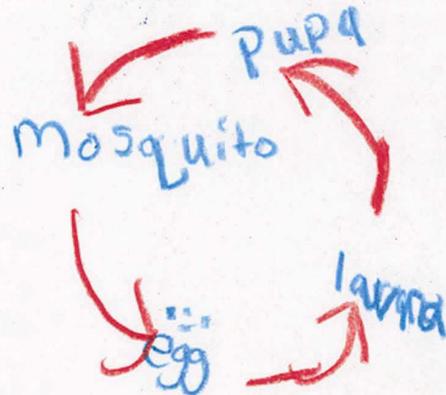
Dear, Mrs. Breasbois, Thank you for coming to our school. I learned 3 things. First I learned about mosquito virus, like West Nile Virus. I learned to dump out you pool. I also learned about the Mosquito life cycle.

P.s. Please come again next year!

Melissa Doughty

blue Jay

crow



STAND YOUR GROUND, TAKE BACK YOUR YARD!



290
Fourth



I can help too!

When it comes to educating the public, its not a matter of trying...



"Try not!"

**"Do. Or do not.
There is no try."**