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FROM THE SOIL TO YOUR TABLE

A Forum on the Safety of the Food Supply



Wednesday, March 6, 1985
Erb Memorial Student Union
University of Oregon

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8:30 am | Registration |
| 9:30 am | Nutritional Quality and
the U.S. Food System |
| 1 pm | Pesticide Use and
Food Safety |
| 3 pm | Agricultural Chemicals
and the Food Supply |
| 6:30 pm | Films on the Safety
of the Food Supply |

The cost of the Forum is **\$15.00**
For more information call 345-1218.

Willamette Valley Tilth

UPFRONT

Chemicals in the Environment

The Debate Continues

In light of the recent controversy around how to control the gypsy moth in Lane County as well as the recent County Commissioners' charge of "cover-up" by the EPA in their study of toxic chemicals in western Lane County, we can all afford to be better educated about the chemicals our bodies absorb daily.

There is just such a chance this week in Eugene. A conference entitled **From the Soil to Your Table: A Forum on the Safety of the Food Supply** will be held on March 6 at the University of Oregon's Erb Memorial Union, Dad's Room (near the Ballroom). Registration is at 8:30 am. It lasts all day.

Moderated by the League of Women Voters, the forum will bring together experts in the areas of nutritional science and education, and agricultural production and policy. Featured speakers are Joan Dye Gussow of Columbia University's Nutrition Department and also a member of the National Academy of Sciences; Jean H. Peters of the OSU Nutrition Department; Mary O'Brien, Information Coordinator of the

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides; Jake Makenzie, Western Regional Compliance Director, EPA; Tom Hunton, full time farmer and owner of a chemical fertilizer business; Robert Cooperrider, full time farmer of organic grains and seeds, active with Tilth.

There will also be films offered on the safety of the food supply at 6:30 in the evening.

Hopefully the wide range of views represented by these people will allow for good dialogue and debate. The forum costs \$10 before March 1, which you may mail to Beth Naylor, 2411 Monroe St., Eugene 97405. It will cost \$15 the day of the event. University credit is also available. For more information, call Tom Forster, 345-1218.

Volunteers Needed!

The Voluntary Action Center recruits and refers volunteers to fill needs in the community. The following are some of the positions open in local non-profit agencies right now:

Teacher's nursery aide: Help the staff at a local agency give quality care to very young children.

Volunteer coordinator: Liaison

between a recreational facility and its volunteers. Trade for recreational facility use.

Teenage counselor: Facilitator for adolescent support group. Trade for recreational facility use.

Volunteer advisor: Provide contact and assistance to recently graduated Job Corps youth.

Friend to the blind: Visit blind people and read to them or write for them.

Office volunteer: Help with general office duties, answering questions from the public, typing, filing, etc. Good job experience.

To find out about these and other positions, call the Voluntary Action Center/YMCA at 342-4451 or come by at 2055 Patter-son.

Photo Contest

A photo contest entitled A Nation of Readers is being sponsored by the Eugene Public Library in cooperation with the American Library Association. The contest is open to amateurs, and three prizes in each category will be awarded for black and white and color photos. There are separate prizes for adults and for students. Dot Dotson is furnishing the prizes for local winners whose photos will then be forwarded to compete for a total of \$7,100 in national cash awards.

The deadline is April 6. Official entry blanks may be obtained at the Eugene Public Library, 100 W 13th Ave. and at any Dot Dotson Camera store.

LETTERS

Mutations and Pesticides

This is addressed especially to those of you whose professions involve health. There is a conspicuous threat to public health in the proposed use of Dimilin and Orthene for gypsy moth. If you feel this subject is controversial, I urge you to study the facts readily obtainable from SOS or NCAP. Here are a few, for starters:

• The ODA (Dept. of Agriculture) steering committee did not discuss health in arriving at its position.

• A mutation is a heritable alteration in the cells, generally harmful, that can cause birth defects in present or future generations, miscarriages, cancer, inborn errors of metabolism, or failure to develop normally.

• Recorded birth defects have increased world-wide from 6% in 1968-69 to 10.8% in 1977. March of Dimes puts this figure at 1 in 14 at present for the U.S.

• It is illegal to label any pesticide "safe when used as directed."

• Orthene, which they want to spray in Eugene, was tested by the

Gene-Tox program of EPA and found positive, or genotoxic, in three out of five tests for point-gene mutations, three out of six tests for DNA damage, and one out of three tests for chromosome damage.

Dimilin was also shown to be mutagenic in several assays, and to reduce the male hormone testosterone in male chicks.

• No safe dose of threshold can be established for a mutagen or cancer initiator since such damage is irreversible and cumulative.

• There is growing evidence that Bt alone is more successful than synthetic insecticides—apparently because it is less harmful to the pests' natural enemies.

There is no way they can spray Oregon in April without contaminating water and gardens.

Please call your legislators, free, at 1-800-982-1211, and ask for investigative hearings—in a committee not dominated by those with conflict of interest (i.e., Agricultural Committees).

Barbara Kelley
Co-ordinator, SOS
(Save Our ecoSystems)

Weekly Eye Opener

by Larry Deckman

(Taken from the book *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan): "The total number of stars in the universe is greater than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the planet Earth."

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What's HAPPENING
335 W. 20th, Eugene, OR 97405
P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440
(503) 484-0519