



## Pesticides and Food

**Grower Pesticide Safety Course Manual © 2006**

**The page number at the top right corner of each slide tells you where to find the information in the Grower Pesticide Safety Course Manual. Follow along in your manual as you review each slide.**

# Pesticides and Food

The following are results from a 2001 poll taken by Health Canada, where Canadians were asked to rate a list of potential health hazards.

The 10 top health issues they rated were the following:  
(numbers in brackets represent same poll taken in 1992)

1. Cigarette Smoking (1)
2. Street Drugs (3)
3. AIDS (7)
4. **Pesticides in food (8)**
5. Crime and violence (5)
6. Ozone depletion (2)
7. Stress (4)
8. Sun tanning (6)
9. Bacteria in food
10. Food Irradiation



# Public Concern for Food Safety

**Canadians are concerned about pesticide residues on fruit and vegetables**

**TORONTO – November 12, 2008**

**Sixty percent (60%) of Canadians are concerned about pesticide residue on fruit and vegetables**, according to poll results released by the Canadian Cancer Society.

**“Now, more than ever, Canadians are concerned about the food they eat and how it affects their health, including cancer risk,” says Heather Logan, Senior Director, Cancer Control Policy and Information, Canadian Cancer Society.**

# Public Concern for Food Safety

## Canadian Cancer Society Poll Results Show:

- **Almost half of respondents said pesticides should be used carefully to balance the health benefits of having fruit and vegetables available with the potential harm from the chemicals.**
- **80 percent carefully wash all fruit and vegetables before consuming to reduce their exposure to pesticide residue.**
- **24 percent said they purchase products that have not been exposed to chemicals when they can.**
- **55 percent believe that they do not receive enough information about the use of pesticides to make informed choices about the food they buy.**
- **74 percent said they would support stronger federal government regulations aimed at reducing the initial use of pesticides in food production.**

# What is a pesticide residue?

- **the amount of pesticide that remains on a crop, animal or surface after it has been treated**

## **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)**

- **about 98% of the food samples in Canada have no detectible residue or a residue below the MRL**

**[www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/legis-e.html](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/legis-e.html)**

# Testing for Residues

## Who tests?

**PMRA, CFIA, OMAFRA, food processors**

## What are they looking for?

- 1. residues greater than the MRL**
- 2. residues of unregistered pesticides**
- 3. “off label” residues (most common)**



# How Can You Prevent Residues?

- **get the latest information**
- **read the label and follow all directions:**
  - **crops/animals**
  - **pests**
  - **pesticide rate**
  - **calibrate equipment**
  - **pre-harvest, pre-slaughter interval**

# Re-evaluation of Pesticides

**PMRA may re-evaluate a pesticide.**

**After re-evaluation, PMRA may decide to:**

- **remove a crop from the label,**
- **remove a pesticide from the market place, or**
- **change the label rate or pre-harvest interval.**

**Recent news on re-evaluation and MRLs from PMRA:**

**[www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2006-01-e.pdf](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2006-01-e.pdf)**

# Risk Assessment by PMRA

## Risk Cup



**holds the total amount of a pesticide that a person could be exposed to through a number of routes everyday over a period of 70 years, without having any significant health risk.**



**All the ways a person could be exposed to a pesticide.**

- food, use in the home, garden, parks, golf course

## **Cumulative Exposure**

**Exposure to all the pesticides in the same pesticide group or family.**

- grouped by the way they cause similar toxic effects

**When the cup is full, uses for the pesticide must be removed from the label or the pesticide is removed from the market. (For example, chlorpyrifos no longer used around the home.)**

# Emergency Pest Outbreaks

## Emergency Use Registrations

- **Follow the directions on the Supplemental Label.**
- **Pesticides that you have not been able to use before may become available to you.**

Rust on Soybeans---Folicur<sup>®</sup> 432 F



## Ontario Minor Use Co-ordinator

### User Requested Minor Use Registration (URMUR)

Pesticides not already registered in Canada but registered in another country.

### User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion (URMULE)

Pesticides already registered in Canada on a major crop.

[www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/minoruse/aboutminoruse.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/minoruse/aboutminoruse.html)

# Keep Good Records

**Written records show traceability**

- **who produced the food**
- **where the food was produced**
- **how it was handled at each step of production**
- **who processed the food**
- **where the food was processed**
- **how it was handled at each step of processing**

