

INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

Information Line: 1-800-345-5109
Fax: 252-393-6327

2,4-D Web Page www.24d.org
e-mail: donpage@24d.org

NEWS RELEASE

TWO MORE INDEPENDENT STUDIES CONFIRM 2,4-D NOT A CANCER RISK

Swansboro, NC, September 25, 2003 – Two studies recently published in peer-reviewed journals by researchers of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) reinforce the existing body of scientific evidence that the herbicide 2,4-D does not present a cancer risk to farmers and other pesticide applicators.

The first study is a re-analysis of data from three earlier studies conducted in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa-Minnesota during the 1980s and 1990s. The NCI researchers determined: “Whereas an indicated effect of 2,4-D exposure on NHL (non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma) was reported in the NCI’s Nebraska and Kansas studies, this analysis of the pooled data found no association with having ever used 2,4-D.”

NCI researchers also concluded: “Although epidemiological data on cancer risks from exposure to specific pesticides are scant, it also suggests that while some pesticides may present a cancer risk, many, maybe even most, pesticides do not.”

The article by A.J. De Roos was published in Occupational & Environmental Medicine (<http://oem.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/60/9/e11>).

The second report concerns NCI’s Agricultural Health Study of 55,332 male pesticide applicators. The researchers determined: “For the same period, cancer incidence from all sites was significantly less than expected with an overall standardized incidence ratio (SIR) of 0.80 (95 percent confidence interval 0.76, 0.83.)” An SIR of 0.80 means that the cancer incidence among farmers and applicators is significantly lower than the cancer incidence in the general population. Furthermore, the researchers found that there was no association between the use of 2,4-D and prostate cancer.

The article by Michael C.R. Alavanja was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology (Am J Epidemiol 2003;157:800).

“This latest research by the National Cancer Institute is critically important because it reinforces earlier decisions of the World Health Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the European Commission”, stated Donald Page, Executive Director of the Task Force. “The overwhelming body of modern scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that the use of 2,4-D by farmers and other applicators does not present a cancer risk.”

About 2,4-D

Since being first registered in United States in 1946, the herbicide 2,4-D has become the most widely used agricultural herbicide in this country and worldwide. It is used on many crops that are an important element of an individual's diet such as wheat, barley, rice, soybeans, potatoes, and pome, stone and citrus fruits. It is also a component of herbicides used by lawn care professionals and homeowners to protect turf grass from weeds.

Since 1986, more than a dozen government and expert panels, including the World Health Organization, European Commission, Harvard University School of Public Health, University of Michigan School of Public Health and USDA/University of Minnesota School of Public Health (NAPIAP Report NO. 1-PA-96), have concluded that 2,4-D does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment when used according to label instructions.

About the Task Force

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data is organized under U.S. pesticide law to provide funding for some 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) research studies required to respond to the EPA pesticide re-registration programs. The 2,4-D Task Force is made up of those companies owning the technical U.S. registrations on the active ingredient in 2,4-D herbicides. They are BASF (Germany), Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm, Ltd. (Australia) and Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI Gordon Corp. (U.S.).

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, www.24d.org or email: donpage@24d.org.