

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CITIZEN NOTIFICATION ABOUT POWERED OUTDOOR PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

“Say Before You Spray” - Protect Neighbors and Small Farmers from the Dangers of Pesticide Spray

All Maine people should be informed about pesticides that could drift onto their properties, affect the health of their families, create an economic burden from loss of crops, or poison their environment.

The Problem:

- Pesticides can cause serious health effects, including birth defects, cancer, asthma, developmental disabilities, and even death.
- When sprayed using ground or aerial power equipment, pesticides can drift off-target and impact the health and property of neighboring families and businesses.
 - David Pimentel, Ph.D., wrote in “Pesticides: Amounts Applied and Amounts Reaching Pests” (*BioScience*, 1986) that “[O]ften less than 0.1% of [pesticides] applied to crops actually reaches target pests.”
- Many people don’t know about existing rules and many others don’t feel comfortable approaching neighbors about their spraying.
 - The accesses to information systems are confusing. For each kind of outdoor pesticide application (agricultural, forestry, ornamental, right of way, biting fly and public health pests) Maine citizens have to negotiate different information channels.
 - For a fee, citizens may sign onto a public notification registry for certain outdoor pesticide applications. However, the registry doesn’t apply to agricultural applications.
- Under current Maine regulation, a land manager conducting outdoor agricultural pesticide applications need not provide neighbors with general information about his or her intended spray activities unless a neighbor who resides within 500’ specifically requests it.
 - Maine’s Board of Pesticides Control is attempting to strengthen notification requirements. Unfortunately, the Board’s proposed language fails to require pesticide sprayers to make good faith efforts to notify all neighbors of intentions to spray.



The Solution:

- “An Act to Require Citizen Notification about Powered Outdoor Pesticide Applications” would establish a simple, clear and comprehensive notification system to help landowners inform neighbors about their intended spray plans. It would:
 - Require land managers intending to conduct powered outdoor pesticides applications to provide initial notification to occupants, farmers and owners of properties that abut or lie within 1320 feet of the intended spray area;
 - Apply to all powered outdoor pesticide applications, not just aerial spraying; and
 - Establish an opt-in registry for folks wishing to receive detailed information about powered outdoor pesticide applications taking place within a quarter mile of their property.



“Say Before You Spray”: An opportunity for Maine to be a leader in developing innovative and common sense policies that protect human health and the environment.