

Pesticide Action Network UK

UK Policies and PAN UK's Activities

Influencing Policy

– main UK Policy and regulatory bodies



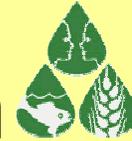
- Pesticide Safety Directorate
 - Pesticide Forum
 - Pesticide minimisation policy
 - Government consultations
 - Code of Practice for safe use of pesticides
 - National Pesticides Strategy
 - Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution - Bystander exposure
- Food Standards Agency
 - Residue minimisation action plan
- Environment Agency
- Health and Safety Executive
- Voluntary Initiative (Industry led)

Pesticide Forum- Stakeholder group



- Representatives of around 25 stakeholders, including PAN UK, farmers, research, ag-chem industry.
- Provide advice to the Government on developing, promoting and putting into practice policy on using pesticides.
- Promote practices and technologies that are most effective and practical for reducing adverse impacts of pesticides on the environment
- Improve the speed of knowledge transfer to the end-user.

Pesticide Minimisation



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Policy – has the following 5 strands

- The approvals process - setting of maximum dosage rates and number of applications
- Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food & surveillance monitoring carried out by the Pesticide Residues Committee
- Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings (Green Code) - guidance on safe pesticide use for farmers and growers and makes clear that pesticides should only be used when necessary
- Research and Development into improved methods of forecasting pests and diseases, to achieve a more effective application of pesticides and to underpin integrated pest management programmes.
- The Pesticides Forum - encouraging responsible pesticide use.



National Strategy for Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products

- Been waiting for strategy to be published since 2003
- Consultation just closed
- Nothing ruled in or out – except a pesticide use reduction policy
- Only addresses environment – not health
- We want a National Strategy for Sustainable Pest Management

Bystander Enquiry



- Independent review of science and policy relating to bystander exposure – reports Sept 05
- Took evidence from very wide range of experts and stakeholders
- Likely to be very critical of Government and Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) in particular
however
- PSD have had continuing input after seeing draft report
- Publication date delayed until after National Strategy Consultation closed
- Royal Commission reports are often ignored

Food Standards Agency



Minimising Pesticide Residues -Action plan – 2004

- work with stakeholders to identify measures to provide the information the public needs about the regulatory controls and bodies that currently exist to protect consumer safety
- draw together documentation that provides examples of best practice and disseminating it to retailers and assurance schemes. The Agency will work with stakeholders on ways to measure the uptake of best practice and report back to the Board in the second half of 2005
- continue to work with government departments and NGOs to promote measures that may minimise residues and meet consumers' preferences
- Priority crops - **apples, pears, potatoes, tomatoes and grain** - because it is likely that reductions in pesticide residues can be achieved by encouraging good practice for these crops.
- explore options for reducing residues in imported food

Environment Agency



- Don't formulate policy but are very influential
- Managing Chemicals for a Better Environment - strategy focuses on chemicals that may directly affect the environment or human health through environmental exposure,
 - addresses particularly hazardous chemicals such as endocrine disruptors
- Position paper on Environment and Health
- Responsible for monitoring water pollution
- Give advice to pesticide users on best practice for reducing pesticides in water
- Are primarily interested in environmental impact reduction but are probably prepared to consider targeted use reduction

Health and Safety Executive



- Regulatory authority for non-agricultural pesticides and biocides
- HSE is also responsible for enforcing the law on both agricultural and non agricultural pesticides in locations where it is the enforcing authority
- Responsible for monitoring and investigating operator and bystander exposure incidents

Voluntary Initiative



- Accepted by the Government on the 1st April 2001, in place of a proposed tax on pesticides used in agriculture and horticulture.
- Only addresses environmental impacts
- Put forward by seven signatory organisations led by the Crop Protection Association. It will last for five years.
- An independent Steering Group directs the implementation process and reports progress to the Minister

The initiative consists of three key activities

- Research
- Training
- Communication and Stewardship

Problems with UK policy



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- Current drive for LESS regulation, not more.
- UK authorities do not accept the need for a Use Reduction Policy
- Environmental impacts are given more attention than health impacts
- Public concern seen to be as a result of public ignorance and media scare stories
- Main regulatory body (PSD) is secretive and defensive

Problems with UK Policy



- Pesticide regulation split between a range of organisations
- Stakeholder groups like Pesticide Forum and Voluntary Initiative steering group have to accommodate wide range of views – from NGOs to Industry
- Emphasis being moved to Local Authorities – will this take the spotlight off Agriculture when this is still the biggest pesticide user

Other ways PAN UK can have influence

- Retailers driving pesticide usage in practice – policy change has limited effect
- Public concerned about residues – lots of coverage from media
- Strong desire for alternative techniques for pest management – government not sufficiently pro-active

Main PAN UK agriculture activities

- Continue to input to National Strategy whenever possible
- Continue to contribute to Pesticide Forum and Voluntary Initiative
- Big effort on identifying and promoting alternative pest management techniques