



## Publications of Interest

**1. U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. Neurotoxicity: Identifying and Controlling Poisons of the Nervous System. OTA-BA-436 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, April 1990).**

In this book, the Office of Technology Assessment examines our current knowledge about neurotoxins, discusses policy issues—including the adequacy of information received by workers and the public to make informed decisions about exposure to neurotoxic substances, and lists options for Congressional action.

The report includes a case study on neurotoxic pesticides used in agriculture (pp. 281-96). The case study discusses the short- and long-term neurological health effects of pesticide exposure and the limitations of research data, the extent of farmworker exposure, the special risks posed to children, and federal and state regulatory issues. Recommendations include: (1) limiting use of neurotoxic pesticides; (2) more research to understand the neurotoxic effects of new and existing chemicals and to protect farmworkers from them; (3) mandatory pesticide recordkeeping and farmworker access to the information under right-to-know laws; and (4) preventive approaches to protect workers such as consideration of neurotoxic effects when setting pesticide reentry intervals, worker education, and worker monitoring.

The book (GPO stock no. 052-003-01184-1) costs \$15.00 and is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

**2. Schneider, K.: "Migrant Worker Group is Subject of Wide Study," New York Times, August 19, 1990, Section 1, p. 16.**

This article describes the farmworker health research project being conducted by Dr. Marion Moses with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). Four hundred (400) migrant farmworkers who are members of FLOC and work in agriculture year-round are being followed for one year, from Ohio and Michigan to Florida. This prospective study will document the health, occupational exposures, including pesticides, and working conditions of migrant farmworkers and their families.

**3. Migrant Health Newslines. Clinical supplement May/June 1990 on child labor in agriculture. Published by the National Migrant Resource Program, 2512 South IH-35, Suite 220, Austin, TX 78704 (phone: 512-447-0770).**

The supplement includes an issues paper on child labor by the Migrant Clinicians Network, and two articles by clinicians: "The Health Hazards of Agricultural Child Labor" by Pollack et al. and "Farm Injuries to Children in the United States" by Rivara. In its issues paper, the

Migrant Clinicians Network outlines the health hazards and labor law requirements for children in farming and calls for the elimination of inequities against farmworkers in labor and health and safety laws. The other authors echo this call. Drs. Pollack et al. present preliminary data about migrant farmworker children's exposure to pesticides from their ongoing study of child labor in New York State. Dr. Rivara gives data on farm accidents among children and fatalities from farm machinery.

**4. The Boston Globe: "Children at Work: A five-part series on child labor in the United States." April 22-26, 1990.**

This series covers both urban and rural child labor. One article focuses on farmworker children and pesticide exposure; another highlights farm accidents to children. There are a variety of photos of children in the fields. Reprints are available free of charge in limited supply from: Public Relations Department, The Boston Globe, P. O. Box 2378, Boston, MA 02107-2378.

**5. Dervin, K.: "Pesticide Illness: Reporting and Prevention." Rural California Report Vol. 2, No. 3, July 1990, pp. 5-6. Published by the Working Group on Farm Labor and Rural Poverty, California Institute for Rural Studies, P. O. Box 2143, Davis, CA 95617 (phone: 916-756-6555).**

This article describes a California Occupational Health Program/Department of Health Services pilot project in Fresno County to improve pesticide reporting among health care providers, and to link those reports to work site follow-up. The author includes several case summaries of pesticide poisoning investigations conducted by the project.

**6. Lightstone, R.: "Pesticide Poisoning and Environmental Data in California." Rural California Report Vol. 2, No. 3, July 1990, pp. 6-7. (See #5 for how to order.)**

The author presents preliminary findings from California Rural Legal Assistance's analysis of the state computerized data base of reported pesticide poisonings. The data demonstrate that (1) reported poisonings remain at record high levels, and (2) law enforcement actions remain weak. During the period 1982-88, the crop with the greatest number of worker poisonings was grapes.

**7. Moses, M.: "Pesticide-Related Health Problems and Farmworkers." AAOHN Journal Vol. 37, No. 3, March 1989, pp. 115-130.**

Dr. Moses reviews the scientific literature on the acute and chronic health effects of pesticides, including data about cancer in children, reproductive outcome, and neurological and neurobehavioral effects.



8. **Moses, M.: *Cancer in Humans and Potential Occupational and Environmental Exposure to Pesticides.* *AAOHN Journal* Vol. 37, No. 3, March 1989, pp. 131-136.**

This is a compendium of abstracts of epidemiological studies and case reports about pesticide exposure and cancer in humans.

9. **Sweeney, M.A. and Ciesielski, S.: *Where Work Is Hazardous to Your Health: A Survey of Occupational Injuries and Field Sanitation Among North Carolina Farmworkers.* April 1990. Published by the Worker Safety and Health Project, Farmworkers Legal Services of North Carolina, P. O. Box 26626, Raleigh, NC 27611 (phone: 919-821-5869). Free of charge.**

Researchers interviewed 287 farmworkers during the 1989 growing season in seven counties in eastern North Carolina about workplace accidents and availability of field sanitation facilities. Results showed that only 21% of workers who had been injured on the job received even partial compensation for work time lost. No workers injured in North Carolina received any compensation for lost work days (farmworkers are not covered under workers' compensation there). Injured workers experienced delays in seeking medical care; about 25% never got such care. More than a third of the farmworkers who had been injured returned to work prematurely because of no compensation. Field sanitation findings revealed that only 4% of the farmworkers surveyed worked on farms fully in compliance with the federal regulations.

10. ***Race, Poverty & the Environment.* Quarterly newsletter for social and environmental justice. Subscriptions cost \$8.00, free to community groups. Contact: Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133-3312.**

Environmental hazards have a disproportionately greater impact on low-income and minority communities. This new newsletter serves as a forum to explore the interconnections of race, class and environmental issues.

11. **Villarejo, D.: *Environmental Effects of Living and Working in Agricultural Areas of California—Social and Economic Factors.* Paper prepared for the seminar "Health Risks of Living and Working in California Agricultural Communities" (June 6-7, 1990). Order from the California Institute for Rural Studies, Inc., P. O. Box 2143, Davis, CA 95617.**

The author describes California agriculture, characteristics of its farms, farmers, and farmworkers, trends in farm pesticide use, access to health care, and community health-related concerns. The latter include air and drinking water quality, and urban-farmer conflicts.

12. ***American Journal of Industrial Medicine* Vol. 18, No.2, 1990. Special Issue. *Agricultural Occupational and Environmental Health: Policy Strategies for the Future—The Scientific Basis. Part I.* Forthcoming issue, Vol. 18, No. 3 will have Part II.**

This volume covers the proceedings of a 1988 Iowa conference on agricultural occupational health. Part I includes articles on injury surveillance, policy issues, cancer, and occupational health services for farmers. The upcoming issue includes articles on lung diseases, cancer, and neurotoxic effects of agricultural pesticides as well as one on dermatitis among farmworkers.

13. ***New Solutions.* Quarterly magazine. Individual subscriptions \$40, institutions \$60, from New Solutions, P. O. Box 2812, Denver, CO 80201.**

This new magazine "aims to advance worker and community health and safety by providing a policy forum to bridge the gap between scientists and the community, between public health professionals and labor." The first issue (Spring 1990) features articles about "OSHA at 20" and "A Women's Occupational Health Agenda for the 1990s."

I would like to support the Farmworker Justice Fund in its second decade of helping migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc., 2001 "S" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.