Greetings!

It’s the season! Summer abounds with beautiful fruit, sun… and ugh, mosquitoes and ticks.

In this month’s newsletter: Find out how to reduce exposure to those nasty/pesty mosquitoes and ticks, without toxic pesticides! Want to know what toxic-free sunscreens work best? And yes, the pick-your-own strawberries season is now in full swing. We encourage you to avoid pick-your-own adventures at farms that use chlorpyrifos, the pesticide that EPA confirmed harms children’s brains, starting in utero in impacting growing children. And, we’re hearing that some stores are still selling banned neonic-containing products. We need your help to spot and report them, see below.

ACTION ALERTS

Protecting You and Your Family

- It's strawberry picking season - but Maryland children are at risk. Pesticides used on strawberries are linked to a wide range of diseases and disorders. Check out our new fact sheet to stay informed here. Fair Farms also has a list of organic orchards that host pick-your-own days - click here.
- Are outlawed neonics being sold near you? They might be! You can protect bees, birds, butterflies, lightning bugs and their beneficial kin. Get the fact sheet.

On the Federal Level

- The 2018 Farm Bill is beginning to move in a U.S. Senate Committee. Your voice is critically needed to protect organic standards and stop provisions that are harmful to health and the environment. Please contact your senator if you care about access to organic food. Read more.

- For more background info read Friends of the Earth scientist Kendra Klein’s article: The 2018 Farm Bill: A Sneak Attack on the Organic Standards?
Restaurants that offer organic options…

- **This month we start with Baltimore!** Check [here](#) and [here](#) for excellent organic restaurant tips. Know of other good organic-oriented restaurants in your county? Let us know at info@mdpestnet.org and we will share the information.

And while we're talking food…

- **This Farmers Market guide** can help you ask the right questions when purchasing food at your farmers’ market.

- Curious about what various eco labels actually mean? Our [Go Organic website](#) can help.

- Scientists find conventional pesticide-reliant crop production can have 10 times more adverse environmental impacts than organic crops. [Read more](#).
Centers for Disease Control finds Maryland has the second highest rate of autism in America. Scientific research increasingly links autism to environmental factors, including pesticide exposure. The link between autism and Chlorpyrifos exposure – the pesticide the EPA planned to ban, prior to EPA Administrator Pruitt’s reversal of his own agency’s decision – was confirmed by EPA scientists. Read more.

Our monthly round up on Round Up

- Important study underscores that glyphosate (the main ingredient in Round Up) can have adverse long term health impacts. These health impacts could manifest as long-term cancer pathology, possibly impacting a huge number of people worldwide. Read more.

- The FDA has found traces of glyphosate in common grocery items. Read more.

- Important new research finds that bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides disrupt human hormonal system, particularly the production of estrogen. Read more.
Help the Maryland Pesticide Education Network continue to protect our babies, bees and the Bay.

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POLLINATOR/BEE BUZZ

- New scientific study shows bee-killing pesticides do not improve efficiency or profits for farmers. Read more.

TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

- Manage mosquitoes without pesticides - check out our updated and expanded fact sheet here!

- Manage ticks without pesticides - read more.

- Make sure your sunscreen is effective and toxic-free - check this list for the best sunscreens of 2018 (and toxic ones to avoid).

- 16 homemade weedkillers that will work in your yard. Start boiling a pot of water now and you'll understand why in a minute. Read more.
Please help us continue to protect our Babies, Bees and the Bay.

DONATE

YOUR AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES ALSO SUPPORT OUR WORK

We appreciate your feedback on our monthly newsletter! info@mdpestnet.org

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