

# Farmers return several tons of obsolete pesticides in effort to go green

4/17/2013 12:35:19 PM

## EXTRACT

According to agricultural waste stewardship organization CleanFARMS, farmers throughout the country have returned thousands of kilograms of pesticides that are no longer used to the proper authorities. For example, Alberta farmers turned in more than 66,000 kilograms of unwanted pesticides, while Manitoba agricultural professionals returned 75,000 kilograms worth of harmful chemical treatments.

## ARTICLE CONTENT

More of Canada's farmers are jumping aboard the organic bandwagon, and in the process, returning some of the harmful pesticides that adversely impact the earth.

According to agricultural waste stewardship organization CleanFARMS, farmers throughout the country have returned thousands of kilograms of pesticides that are no longer used to the proper authorities. For example, Alberta farmers turned in more than 66,000 kilograms of unwanted pesticides, while Manitoba agricultural professionals returned 75,000 kilograms worth of harmful chemical treatments.

Barry Friesen, general manager of CleanFARMS, indicated that this joint initiative that so many farmers have taken part in is a strong indication of just how seriously they take the issue of environmental responsibility and sustainability.

"Farmers are some of the very best stewards of the land and their participation in this program serves to highlight that," said Friesen. "They responsibly use pesticides to improve their operations and grow a safe supply of food for Canadians. When it comes time to dispose of unwanted pesticides, they do it safely and responsibly through a program like ours."

People who are unfamiliar with farming practices think that in order to be organic, farmers can't use any pesticides whatsoever. In reality, pesticides are used regularly by organic farmers, the difference being that the substances are natural and free of harmful additives. Were it not for pesticides, it would be extremely difficult for farmers to control insects and weeds, which can lead to serious damage and stunted growth.

### **Organic lifestyle not bought into by everyone**

Some people still don't buy into organic and why it's become so popular. In a recent survey conducted by the Harris Poll, which surveyed nearly 2,300 adults, nearly 60 percent of men said that they thought organic products were nothing more than a ploy for companies to charge more for food.

However, there are still those who not only prefer organic but believe it tastes better. The poll found that among those who purchased organic produce exclusively, 41 percent thought they tasted better than non-organic fruits and vegetables.

Meanwhile, as farmers continue with their organic farming practices, CleanFARMS is hopeful that it's program will lead to more farmers digging into their supplies to see if they have any of these pesticides still lurking around. Many vegetable growers today may have

---

these obsolete pesticides without realizing it, simply because they decided to save the product or because someone who used to operate a farming area left it on site.

Not only are these pesticides harmful for the earth, but if they fall into the wrong hands, they can be deadly. In order to avoid a farm insurance claim, land operators are encouraged to ensure that any pesticides they have stored or located in a safe place, preferably in a barn or garage that has an area where they can be locked up.

## CATEGORIES

News

