



EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266-0343

The American Dairy Coalition is a national organization, representing over 30,000 dairy producers across the United States and is the united voice of the dairy industry. ADC is focused on advocating to advance the growth and success of dairy producers and the agriculture industry by providing healthy, affordable food and agriculture products to the families of the world.

The American Dairy Coalition is asking EPA to retract its 'Draft Ecological Risk Assessment: Atrazine, Simazine, and Propazine Registration Review' and instead proceed with a review which utilizes sound science and is devoid of political bias. The EPA is overlooking current federal law which requires science-based decisions in their conquest to ban one of the most scientifically safe herbicides; atrazine.

Our nation's farmers provide families with quality food products throughout the world. This isn't a job to be taken lightly. It is a balancing act to produce healthy and affordable foods in an environmentally sound way. After all, farmers eat the same foods we do and live in the same communities in which their farms operate. It is crucial farmers have access to safe and multifunctional herbicides, such as Atrazine, in order to produce high crop yields while utilizing environmentally safe best management practices such as conservation tillage and no-till farming to prevent manure run-off into from crop fields. EPA's research estimates that farming without utilizing atrazine would cost corn growers a significant amount of money per acre along with reduced crop yields.

Atrazine has been used over the past 50 years and has been determined to be safe in over 7,000 scientific studies. The key to successful regulatory policy is to utilize sound science while ensuring farmers have safe products to use when growing crops. However, EPA's 'Draft Ecological Risk Assessment: Atrazine, Simazine, and Propazine Registration Review' is riddled with inconsistencies, scientific errors and biased interpretations.

ADC is asking EPA to work with us and the agriculture industry and assist farmers so that they don't unnecessarily see significantly higher costs per acre, losses in bushels grown, increased resistance to weed control and allow them to do their jobs in the most environmentally sustainable way. EPA should not regulate farmers out of existence.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laurie Fischer – President

American Dairy Coalition