



THE PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE  
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## ***TAKING A FRESH LOOK:*** **HELP CRAFT A NEW APPROACH TO PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP** **AT END-OF-PRODUCT LIFE**

**INTRODUCTION.** In Fall 2005 The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) initiated an effort to bring pesticide stakeholders together to envision and create means for ensuring full life cycle stewardship of pesticides, with particular attention to the oft-neglected steps at the end-of-product-life. TPSA is taking this initiative—which we have come to call *Pesticide Life Cycle Stewardship and Extended Product Responsibility* (PLCS/EPR)—and is inviting other stakeholders to join us because:

- (i) We believe that pesticide stewardship is not an option, but an essential investment for a healthier world and
- (ii) We are concerned that stewardship at the end of the pesticide life cycle—involving disposal of unwanted products and management of empty containers—is neither addressed by existing regulations nor sufficiently guaranteed by the current voluntary actions of local and state governments and the agri-chemical industry.

**BACKGROUND.** While the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) of 1947 and subsequent related legislation have anchored pesticide stewardship in America over the past 60 years and affected most stages of the pesticide life cycle—from registration standards to product labeling and usage standards and to the education and certification required of pesticide applicators—they have only minimally addressed stewardship requirements at the end of the pesticide life cycle, involving disposal of unwanted pesticide products and containers.

Without Federal regulation and guidance, pesticide end-users have largely been reliant on the voluntary actions of local and state governments and the agri-chemical industry for disposal at the end of product-life. A careful look at the 15-year record indicates that these approaches have not uniformly or universally met the needs of pesticide end-users across the United States, nor have they met broader social needs. It is also quite apparent that both government and industry programs are facing increasing instability and uncertainty. Significant amounts of unwanted and obsolete chemicals and empty pesticide containers can be found in most states. Current trends suggest that service levels will decline even further.

**CONCEPT.** TPSA is proposing that the framework of *Life Cycle Stewardship and Extended Product Responsibility* be used to address these end-of-product-life issues. LCS/EPR have become guiding principles in many sectors, allowing for improved system planning, benchmarking and product management. As applied to pesticides, this framework would link product manufacturers with end-users, making clear that stewardship must encompass all stages in the pesticide life cycle, from manufacture, through distribution and use, to disposal.

Beyond our core belief that all who have a stake in pesticide commerce should participate—and take some responsibility for—a fully operational, sustainable system for end-of-life stewardship, TPSA fully believes that LCS/EPR can be developed and implemented in any number of ways. Rather than proposing any specific model of infrastructure, funding or compliance, TPSA is proposing that all pesticide stakeholders engage in a multi-party dialogue using the fresh perspective of LCS/EPR to solve these lingering pesticide stewardship issues.

(OVER)

**NEXT STEPS.** As an organization comprised of many key pesticide stakeholder groups, The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) is in a unique position to serve as a catalyst for this effort. Our plans at this early stage are to:

- Continue to inform pesticide stakeholders about PLCS/EPR, and invite their participation in this initiative to create more sustainable, efficient solutions to pesticide stewardship at the end-of-product life;
- Document the stewardship needs and interests of these groups and organizations;
- Create forums to bring pesticide stakeholders together to exchange ideas and develop discussion templates for implementing end-of-life-cycle pesticide stewardship.

### HELP END-USERS TO BE GOOD STEWARDS



IT SHOULDN'T END LIKE THIS...

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**FOR MORE ABOUT THE PESTICIDE LIFE CYCLE STEWARDSHIP/EXTENDED PRODUCT RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE,** SEE <[http://tpsalliance.org/nb\\_life\\_cycle.html](http://tpsalliance.org/nb_life_cycle.html)> OR CONTACT ROGER SPRINGMAN AT THE WI DEPT OF AGRICULTURE <[Roger.Springman@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:Roger.Springman@datcp.state.wi.us)> OR LOIS LEVITAN AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY <[lcl3@Cornell.edu](mailto:lcl3@Cornell.edu)>.