

Would basically ban atrazine use in many areas— EPA’s Atrazine Assessment Worse than Expected

YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED . . . PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

What you need to know about EPA’s atrazine risk assessment:

- The draft ecological risk assessment for atrazine is part of EPA’s atrazine registration review.
- It sets the aquatic life level of concern for atrazine at 3.4 parts per billion over a 60-day rolling average. The current LOC is 10 ppb, and all credible research proves the safe level is 24 ppb or higher.
- This will amount to a de facto ban on the use of atrazine.
- EPA used research its own science advisory panels threw out years ago, and disregarded research that met EPA’s standards.
- EPA is supporting the agenda of environmental activists instead of following federal guidelines that require the agency to use credible science in decisions.
- KCGA requested and received an extension to the comment period—the deadline for comments is now October 4.
- Enclosed is a comment letter for you to sign and a postage-paid envelope to return it to KCGA. Copies on the back can be signed by spouses and farm partners.
- Well-funded environmental activist groups are organized and will flood EPA with comments demanding that atrazine be banned.
- **Let’s make sure EPA hears from farmers!**

IN THIS ISSUE

Important Action Alert on EPA’s assessment that would basically ban the use of atrazine.



Young corn farmers: Join the Kansas Corn Corps, a young grower development program! Learn more on p. 2

Our new Seed to STEM workshop for science teachers just wrapped up. Learn more on p. 3

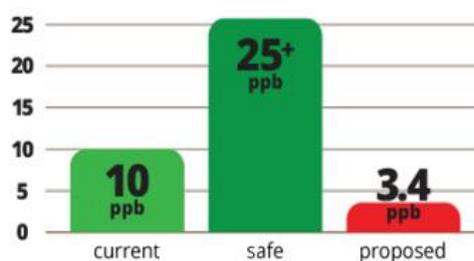
EXCELLENT INSERTS
Atrazine comment sheet. We make it easy for you to submit your comment to EPA. Just sign and send it in to us.

KCGA Membership Form: if you’re not a member, consider joining. If you are a member, **THANKS!**

Reply envelope: Use it to mail back your comments and membership form.
We’ll pay the postage!

**TELL EPA
YOU NEED ATRAZINE
FOR YOUR CROPS**

Levels of atrazine in aquatic life during a 60-day average





Kansas Corn Corps: A New Program for Young Corn Growers

The Kansas Corn Corps program is focused on providing participants the opportunity to learn new techniques, strategies and information they can take back to their farms.

“We want to provide young corn growers with information and resources they can use on the farm, and also offer them the ability to become more connected with other growers across the state,” Kansas Corn CEO Greg Krissek said.

Corn Corps is open to couples and singles, allowing young growers to come together in learning and bring multiple perspectives from the farm. The program is designed to provide opportunities for engagement to enhance the Kansas corn industry and networking opportunities with other corn farmers from across the state. The sessions and a domestic agriculture trip will be held over a 16-month timeframe launching in December 2016. The program will include social opportunities throughout the year.

The sessions will be focused on the business aspects of farming with the goal of providing information that is applicable to the life of a young corn farmer. The launch weekend sessions will be planned by the Kansas Corn team, but Kansas Corn Corps participants will help determine the topics for Sessions 2 and Sessions 3, and domestic agriculture trip. To participate, farmers must be active in the operation and growing corn in Kansas. Participants must be 45 or younger, and both men and women are encouraged to apply. Applications are due September 15, 2016. Application materials can be downloaded at kscorn.com



Greg Krissek, CEO
Kansas Corn

Kansas Corn Notes from Greg

What a summer it has been so far! We've held several successful events to reach out to corn farmers, educators and consumers. We've seen a lot of growers already at our first six **Summer Shed Tour** stops and are looking forward to upcoming stops in Southwest, Central and Southeast Kansas. We've put on innovative **education workshops** focusing on helping science teachers incorporate corn, biotechnology and ethanol in their classrooms and labs. We also helped with a Lawrence farm's **Dinner on the Farm** that brought in over 75 consumers to share a meal and conversations about agriculture.

At the end of May, EPA released its **atrazine ecological risk assessment** and it has dire consequences for agriculture. We're leading an effort with the Triazine Network and state partners to collect comments on this risk assessment that threatens your ability to use atrazine. I hope you'll sign the enclosed comment sheet and send it back to us in the paid envelope provided.

As this goes to print, we'll be at **NCGA's Corn Congress** where we'll discuss issues and meet with our Congressional offices. We are thanking both Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Mike Pompeo for their leadership in the passage of the **GMO Labeling Bill** in both the Senate and the House. No, we don't think GMOs should be labeled. In fact, this bill doesn't require labeling, it simply requires disclosure of GMO ingredients. The most important thing it accomplishes is a preemption of individual state GMO labeling laws. Vermont's activist-driven GMO labeling law took effect on July 1, making that state's law the standard for the country. We certainly don't need Vermont driving the nation's labeling requirements, increasing consumer confusion and food prices, and raising doubt about the safety of food containing GMO ingredients. KCGA President Bob Timmons of Fredonia made some good comments about this bill:

“Science has proven that foods containing GMOs are safe and don't need to be labeled. But we believe any food labeling should be under unified, federal guidelines. Without this legislation, individual states will implement their own activist-driven GMO labeling laws causing misinformation, confusion and higher costs to consumers.”

If you have any questions or ideas for me or our staff, we'd love to talk to you. Just call the office at 785-448-6922.

Programs Inspire Teachers to Bring Corn to Science Classes



Seed to STEM—The Kansas Corn Commission’s Seed to STEM summer workshop for science teachers wrapped up two days of intensive sessions that included classroom and lab instruction as well as tours of a farm and an ethanol plant. The workshop is designed to help science teachers incorporate lessons about biotechnology and ethanol in their classrooms. Also, each of the 26 teachers walked away with \$400 worth of lab equipment for use at their schools. One teacher said, *“There is nothing worse than going to a workshop where they say, ‘You could do this in your classroom if you only had this stuff in your lab.’ With Seed to STEM, we are walking away with that stuff!”*

Kansas Corn Commission CEO Greg Krissek said the commission was interested in supporting science education in schools. *“There is truly an amazing amount of science involved in corn farming today. We want to get high school teachers and their students energized about the role science plays in agriculture. We aren’t just giving them lesson plans, we are supporting science education in their schools.”* For more information, visit seed2stem.org.



Summer Science Institute—This teacher workshop led by K-State’s Brian McCornack, uses advanced inquiry-based learning to help teachers educate students about corn and agriculture. One teacher said, *“We have been learning about corn—bio-fuels, bio-plastics, hybrids, stages of corn development, herbicides, harvesting, fertilizing, crop rotation, plant population and density, etc. Why, you may ask? We are learning about INQUIRY using corn as the model, using the Next Generation Science Standards! We will then be taking this back to our classrooms, colleagues and to our district as a working partnership!”*



Kansas Corn Commissioner Pat Ross hosted the Seed to Stem class at his family’s Lawrence farm for a farm tour and dinner.

Dinner on the Farm Draws Over 75 Consumers



Over 75 consumers from the Lawrence area came to the farm for dinner Saturday night. What happened next was an evening of conversations and a delicious farm-grown dinner. *“We just wanted to invite people to the farm for dinner and talk to them one-on-one about food and farming. We wanted to learn about their questions and concerns. Farmers have a great story to tell, and we’re happy to open our doors and share that story,”* said Lowell Neitzel who along with his wife, Krystale, thought up the event. The Neitzel’s are part of a family farm that includes both Bismarck Gardens, that grows and sells sweet corn and other produce, and Nunemaker-Ross Farms that grows corn, soybeans and cattle.

**IMPORTANT
ACTION ALERT
Comment to EPA
On Atrazine**



**EPA WANTS TO
KNOCKOUT
YOUR CORN CROP**

SUBMIT COMMENTS TODAY

Kansas corn producers: sign & return the **ATRAZINE COMMENT LETTER TO EPA included in this newsletter, using the enclosed postage-paid envelope.**

Upcoming Kansas Corn Events

- Aug. 16 Southeast KS Shed Tour Stop, 7:30 a.m. breakfast at Old Iron Club, 10392 Jade Rd., Fredonia, KS
- Aug. 22-23 Kansas Corn Commission meeting, location TBD. Call KS Corn for more information.
- Aug. 25 Central KS Shed Tour Stop, 6:30 p.m. dinner at Knackies, 111 S Maple St. McPherson, KS
- Sept. 1 Northwest KS Shed Tour, Dinner at the City Limits Restaurant, 2227 South Range, Colby, KS at 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 2-12 Kansas State Fair—Visit Agriland in the Pride of Kansas building!
- Sept. 15 Deadline for Kansas Corn Corps young grower program. (See page 2)

Send in your atrazine comment today!

It's easy! Use the enclosed business reply envelope to return your signed atrazine comment to the Kansas Corn Growers Association. We'll collect the comments and submit them to EPA. Two more copies of the comments are printed on the back of this sheet. Ask your spouse, farming partner or neighbor to sign as well.

On the bottom of this sheet is a voluntary survey to help us serve Kansas corn growers better. Please consider filling it out!

Don't Restrict the Use of Atrazine — Comment to the docket (EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0794)

I am writing today to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to use sound science instead of political activism when considering the re-registration of atrazine. The draft Ecological Risk Assessment is based on studies that do not meet the high scientific standards EPA is required to follow. Instead, the federal agency used studies EPA's own 2012 Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) deemed flawed. If EPA continues to use the same false logic or endpoints as noted in the preliminary assessment, it will lead to a de facto ban on atrazine in a large portion of crop areas in the United States.

Adopting this draft atrazine proposal will mean a step backward for conservation measures. Many farmers rely on atrazine for long-acting weed control on their conservation tillage and no-till fields. Banning atrazine would limit farmers' conservation efforts, leading to increased soil erosion and fossil fuel use. Herbicide resistance is also a major concern for agriculture. By eliminating access to one of our key herbicides, farmers will be forced to rely on a smaller toolbox of weed control tools. This will increase the herbicide-resistant weed population.

In 2003, EPA estimated banning atrazine would cost farmers \$28 per acre. A more recent University of Chicago study estimated the cost at \$59 per acre. Especially in this time of low commodity prices, any slim profit margins farmers have will be erased if the EPA continues down this path. Atrazine is one of the most studied and reviewed herbicides in history. EPA is legally bound to use credible scientific evidence in its decisions. I am asking EPA to simply follow the science and follow the law. Correct the mistakes and faulty conclusions in this report.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Email address: _____

Help Kansas Corn serve you better by answering this short survey!

What Kansas Corn programs would you be interested in participating in?

- Ag advocacy, education, consumer outreach
- Participating in local grower events and meetings
- Kansas Corn Corps young grower program
- Leadership/board opportunities
- Legislative and regulatory issues
- Ethanol market development
- Red meat/livestock development
- Trade Policy

What do you consider the top three priorities for the corn checkoff?

- Ethanol Market Development
- Livestock Market Development
- Exports of corn and corn products
- Water quantity research
- Water quality research
- New uses research
- Crop production research
- Youth education programs
- Consumer education

If you are a KCGA Member, what are the top three reasons you belong?

- Farm Program representation
- Crop Insurance program representation
- Pesticide and fertilizer regulation
- Ethanol legislation/regulation
- Water quantity, water quality regulation
- To have a voice in Topeka and Washington DC
- Corn Yield Contest entrant
- Free seed deal or other benefits

If you are not a member, why?

- Not growing corn
- Forgot to renew
- Cost of membership
- Don't see value of membership
- Haven't been asked
- Didn't receive renewal notice
- Other _____

Please rank how you receive information.

____ Email ____ Mail ____ Social Media

Extra Atrazine Forms for Family or Farming Partners

Send in your atrazine comment today!

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TAKE ACTION TODAY!

EPA Atrazine comment deadline is October 4, 2016