

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

ON THE SAFETY OF 2,4-D

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "Taking into consideration all the evidence now available, EPA believes that continued use [of 2,4-D] while waiting for other data will not pose a significant hazard to the environment or public health." Proposed Decision Not to Initiate a Special Review, March 15, 1988.

Canadian Expert Panel on Carcinogenicity of 2,4-D: "Overall, the Panel concludes that the existing animal and human data are insufficient to support the finding that 2,4-D is a carcinogen and, consequently, finds insufficient evidence to conclude that existing uses of 2,4-D in Ontario pose a significant human health risk." March 23, 1987.

Council on Agricultural Science and Technology: "Information is available on the exposure of farmers, foresters, pesticide applicators, and the general public to 2,4-D. It shows that persons are not exposed to hazardous amounts of 2,4-D when label recommendations and prescribed methods of application are used."

"...In summary, evidence that feeding 2,4-D to laboratory animals causes cancer remains very weak. When assessed together with earlier animal studies, recent data do not provide sufficient evidence to warrant a serious concern that 2,4-D is an animal carcinogen. The results are consistent with those from epidemiologic studies which to date have not shown 2,4-D to increase the risk of human cancer. Other scientists who have recently reviewed available data from animal tests and epidemiologic studies have reached the same conclusion." December 1987.

Industry Task Force on 2,4-D: "To conclude, 2,4-D has been in commerce and a subject for research since 1944. In our modern society 2,4-D has played an indispensable role in the production of food and fiber, in maintenance of our food supply lines, highway and railroad systems, as well as being a useful tool in creating desirable wildlife habitats. Recently completed toxicology studies support the conclusions of earlier studies and allow the establishment of [no observed effect levels] for 2,4-D. It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude that 2,4-D can be used according to label directions without causing a health hazard to humans, domestic animals or wildlife, and without causing unreasonable adverse effects to our environment. This conclusion is based on the tremendous amount of research published on 2,4-D as well as more than 40 years of use in the real world." July 1986.

Regarding the National Institute of Cancer's Kansas Study: "In my opinion, the weight of evidence does not support the conclusion that there is an association between exposure to 2,4-D and NHL [non-Hodgkin's lymphoma].... Taken as a whole, I believe that the weight of evidence indicates [that] an association between 2,4-D and NHL remains a hypothesis that is still to be tested. I am unwilling to speculate as to whether 2,4-D causes NHL (or some cases of NHL) until the evidence is clear that there is an association between them." Dr. Brian MacManon, Dept. of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Harvard University, September 1986.