



## **“Concerns over Agricultural Pesticide use”**

This letter is being written to document my concerns regarding the pesticide application in my area. I am concerned for my health, my grandchildren's, my horses, chickens, dogs, and cats. All live on my property daily. I am also concerned for the local and global pollinators that help us with our crops. We can plant acreage for them, but over spraying will negate this effort. I am also extremely concerned about my well. Irrigators run 24/7, even in torrential downpours. The cropland west and north of my property is much higher. I am flooded with spring runoff every year coming to within 20 feet of my home carrying with it all those chemicals! Complaints are brushed off or blatantly ignored. A man from Minneapolis government agency tested my property in 2004/05 (I can't remember which). What I do remember is his findings...saying yes there is drift, but off the record I will tell you it won't go anywhere unless you have thousands of dollars to waste suing, and you still lose, or lose everything you own because other have tried. To follow are a few of my eyewitness accounts over the years of the blatant disregard of Minnesota Pesticide Application laws.

An aerial sprayer in a yellow plane proceeded over my property line past a buffer zone, did not shut off his chemical sprayer, spraying my trees, hay, horses, dogs, chickens, and teenage daughter. In another instance, a yellow crop dusting plane proceeded over my friend's home across the same field spraying a granddaughter, the home, horses, hay bales, and us. This plane made several passes all while spewing chemical. Our efforts to garner attention only succeeded when I threw a RED folding camping chair up into his flight path. He was at a very low altitude just over the crops. After that he managed to shut his sprayer off. Leading us to conclude he was just lazy or indifferent. The home was not normally occupied during their space in a very distinctly colored plane.

Helicopters spraying next to my property only quit spraying on it when I blatantly went out with my camera.

Desiccant is sprayed on windy days. Not sure if that's why I can't keep broadleaf trees alive?

I have some sort of chemical residue all over the west and north facing sides of my home (the crop facing side) I have no trees it is not sap, but thousands of oily droplets. I am a retired Landscape and Nursery Tech with a two-year degree. I was certified in pesticide application. I know a few things about wind speed regulations, drift etc. which these crop dusters continually ignore in an effort to get the job done. Complaints in the past were ignored. We're told good luck with that.

I have had my car doused with irrigators over spraying roads and the water containing an oily substance causing difficulty in clearing the windshield, later paint damage to the car.

I have some sort over-sprayers too late to avoid or roll up windows causing children and I to get sprayed. I realize not all will contain chemicals but why aren't they fined?

If they are allowed to add chemicals to the irrigator how do they prevent children from ignoring parents and run to play in the BIG SPRINKLER. Or our wildlife for that matter?

The property east and next to me was bought three years ago. They set their irrigator on the property line and it sprays into my property over 15 feet and crosses my driveway. Another buffer zone law violation?

In conclusion, I don't begrudge a crop grower from RESPONSIBLE pesticide use or water usage. The above-mentioned incidences are simple laziness.

By Dianne Wylie