

SEWAGE SLUDGE: What You Can Do!

There are growing concerns and agreements among citizens and scientists, that the 503 federal ruling, concerning sludge management, needs serious re-evaluation and improvement to protect America's health and safety of our people, wildlife, environment, food and water supply.

You Are What You Eat and Drink

>>>Chose USDA certified organic, whenever possible, and drink reputable bottled water.

>>>Purchase from "sludge-free" food companies, who pledge not to use sludge on their fields or livestock – check our list.

>>>Contact your favorite food companies and grocery stores; educate them, and let them know what you think! In our area: FOODLION, HARRIS TEETER, KROGER, LOWE'S FOODS, WEAVER STREET MARKET, WHOLE FOODS. Go to the manager and discuss the issue of 'FOOD GROWN ON FARMLAND SPREAD WITH SEWAGE SLUDGE' and 'LIVESTOCK FED GRAINS AND HAY GROWN ON LAND SPREAD WITH SEWAGE SLUDGE'. Educate the grocery store personnel on this important issue.

Make Wise Purchasing Choices

>>>Choose household cleaners, detergents and personal care products that are 'greener' - if we don't put it down the drain, we don't have to clean it up later.

>>>Stop buying antibacterial soap – studies and the AMA agree that this contributes to the growth antibiotic resistant bacteria, such as MRSA.

>>>Watch your bagged fertilizer – check our list of which is bagged sludge and which is not for your home gardening needs. Re-evaluate those garden chemicals, too!

Become an Active Lobbyist

>>>Contact elected officials at every level – each level of government controls a different aspect of this issue. Check our website links for your elected representatives. SEWAGE SLUDGE ACTION NETWORK will provide names, addresses, email address, and phone numbers..

>>>Keep our "Talking Points" list with your elected official's phone numbers by the phone and call often. Your influence and pressure is what makes "We the People" so important! Make these "watchdogs" accountable for your tax dollars, not for big business! SEWAGE SLUDGE ACTION NETWORK will provide examples of these "Talking Points".

>>>Contact the local and federal EPA & NC Division of Water Quality – ALSO, make these "watchdogs" accountable for your tax dollars, not for big business! SEWAGE SLUDGE ACTION NETWORK will provide names, addresses, email address, and phone numbers.

Get Involved! Join SEWAGE SLUDGE ACTION NETWORK:

>>>Sign up for our email updates, current events, and actions.

>>>Volunteer to help

>>>Donate money to help with costs.

>>>Ask other organizations that you are involved in to take an interest and join. Talk with your church members. Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors. Contact us for more information on how safe food and clean water is everyone's business. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO SHOW THEM THE FILM, 'SLUDGE DIET'.

Shopping for Sludge?

If you are what you eat, then you better be prepared to find out where your food comes from! The following food producers and stores have been contacted, to find out if they sell sludge produced vegetables, milk, meats or eggs.

SLUDGE FREE FOODS LIST :

Heinz (and all their products):

Bagel Bites
Boston Market
Classico
Nancy's
Ore-Ida
Smart Ones
T.G.I. Fridays
Weight Watchers
Wylers

Campbell's

Campbell Soup
Pace Salsa
Pepperidge Farms
Prego
Swanson
V-8

Nestle

Baby Foods
Cereals
Ice Cream

Del Monte

Vegetables
Fruit (canned)
Contadina
S & W Fine Foods

Ocean Spray(all products)

PET

Evaporated Milk

Gerber Baby Foods

All Products

General Mills/Betty Crocker

All products

Allen Canning Co.

Birds-Eye

Comstock Michigan Fruit Division

Dean Foods Vegetable Co

Fresh Express

Green Giant

Haagen Dazs

Jenos

Kraft Foods

Libbies

Martha White

National Food Processors Assoc.

Old El Paso

Perez Packing, Inc.

Pillsbury

Progresso

Quaker Oats

Seabrook Brothers and Sons

Seneca Foods Corp

Tri Valley Growers

Van Den Berch Foods Co

Vermont Family Farms Milk

note: Hershey in PA has a

permit for sludge

Company Statements:

Campbell's:

"We only buy from select suppliers, which does not include suppliers who use sludge."

Heinz:

"The risk of utilizing municipal sludge, which is known to be high in heavy metals, such as cadmium and lead, is not a health risk which we need to take. This is not a publicity statement since it is rigorously enforced and we have at times dropped suppliers who have used sludge on their cropland."

Harris Teeter Stores:

We do not buy from any producers that use sludge fertilization.

National Farmers Union:

"The current practice of spreading hazardous wastes and Class B biosolids on land surfaces should be discontinued to protect the soil and water of agricultural lands, from which the nation's food is produced."

Gerber Baby Foods

Gerber's Agricultural Program does not allow the use of Biosolids (sewage or sludge) fertilizers on our crops.

General Mills/Betty Crocker

General Mills does not allow sludge to be used by farmers growing crops for us. In fact, we have specific language prohibiting the use of sludge in our growing contracts. Our practice is in line with Good Agricultural Practices as prescribed by the U.S. Department Agriculture that discourage the use of sludge. Several industry groups, such as the Food Products Association, also do not endorse the use of sludge on food croplands.

Schwans

The Schwans Food Company states: Each of our products passes both the company's high safety and production standards, and those imposed by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA). We also work very closely with our suppliers to ensure they meet those same high levels of safety and production quality. The FDA exists today to protect public health by assuring the safety, value, and security of our nation's food supply. We are proud to work closely with FDA to make sure our foods are safe for our consumers. Brands made by Schwans: Tony's, Red Baron, Freschetta, Edward's, Mrs. Smiths, Asian Sensations, Larry's, Chicago Town

Note: www.usludgefree.org prepared much of the information for this document and has graciously allowed SEWAGE SLUDGE ACTION NETWORK to use the information.

WWW.USLUDGEFREE.ORG has requested statements from producers such as Birdseye, Smuckers, and stores such as Safeway, Tom Thumb and Kroger and we are currently awaiting their statements. They will add these to the list as they are made known. There has been a substantial amount of time between our requests for information and getting an answer.

We have statements from Albertsons, Food-Lion and Wal-mart that they require producers to follow EPA and USDA guidelines regarding food production. None of the stores make any definitive statements as to whether they do or don't buy sludge produced food products, just that they rely in the EPA and USDA guidelines for producers.

Breyers Ice Cream issued the following statement: Our milk suppliers are regulated by the FDA and continually audited for safety and cleanliness in maintaining good health practices, which doesn't say whether they allow sludge producers or not.