

LEADERS CALL FOR ENTENMANN BOYCOTT

Consumers Say
"Enough
Is Enough!"

THE Supermarket Blues



DO NOT BUY IT!

Entenmann's
Bakes With Tons
of Scab-Processed
Walnuts

200+ CHURCH LEADERS
ASK GOD TO END
CONFRONTATION

PLUS

California
Sun
Diamond
Cannery
Canned
Older
Women
Workers

READ:

U.S. Department of Labor Report



HORROR SHOW!

Walnuts In Toxic Gas Chamber
Ozone Danger Revealed in Enviro Report
Diamond Walnut Cited by Labor Board

New Teamster Prez says:

"Call On
Phillip Morris
To Stop The
Scandal!"

THE COALITION FOR JUSTICE IS ASKING ENTENMANN'S TO STOP PURCHASING DIAMOND WALNUTS
This handbill is not intended nor does it ask any employee to cease work or cease deliveries

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INTO THE SUNLIGHT

Exposing Methyl Bromide's Threat to the Ozone Layer.

Executive Summary

Methyl bromide, a widely and increasingly used pesticide, poses a serious threat to human health and Earth's protective ozone layer. To defend against these threats, governments and industry should immediately cut methyl bromide's production and use by 50 percent and phase out the chemical within five years.

Methyl bromide is a widely and increasingly used pesticide.

Methyl bromide— CH_3Br —is by volume the second most widely used pesticide in the world, after oil. It is manufactured in at least eight countries and sold worldwide. Industrialized countries use the vast majority of ethyl bromide, accounting for greater than 80 percent of the world's consumption. The United States alone is responsible for approximately 43 percent of consumption, or 59 million pounds a year. Worldwide, methyl bromide production and use has been growing at an average annual rate of about 7 percent, from about 92 million pounds in 1984 to about 139 million pounds in 1990.

The chemical's pesticide uses fall into three major categories:

- * Soil fumigation (to kill pests in soil). In the U.S., 49 million pounds of methyl bromide were used as a soil fumigant in 1990, or about 84 percent of all U.S. use as a pesticide.
- * Commodity fumigation (to kill pests on food or in packaging materials). In the U.S., over 5 million pounds of methyl bromide was used as a commodity fumigant in 1990, or about 8 percent of all U.S. use as a pesticide.
- * Structural fumigation (to kill pests in buildings). In the U.S., over 5 million pounds of methyl bromide was used as a structural fumigant, or about 8 percent of all U.S. use as a pesticide.

Methyl bromide damages the ozone layer. Much of the methyl bromide used for fumigation—along with large quantities of the chemical produced as a byproduct of the manufacturing process—escapes into the atmosphere, where it takes part in chemical reactions that damage the ozone layer.

This damage is allowing increased levels of harmful ultra-violet radiation—called UV-B—to reach Earth's surface.

Exposure to UV-B can:

- * cause human health problems, such as skin cancer;

- * disrupt plant growth, which could negatively affect food production; and,
- * damage key ecological systems, such as the one that has marine phytoplankton at its base.

Methyl bromide is a potent ozone destroyer. In fact, over the next 20 years, every kilogram of methyl bromide that is released into the atmosphere will contribute far more to ozone depletion than a kilogram of a better known ozone destroyer such as chlorofluorocarbon-11 (CFC-11).

Due to the chemical's strength, eliminating methyl bromide emissions could quickly reduce damage to the ozone layer. Currently, however, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer does not call for eliminating the use and production of methyl bromide. If the protocol is not amended to control methyl bromide, the chemical's role in ozone destruction will grow. Today, scientists estimate it is responsible for five to ten percent of ozone depletion; by the year 2000, it will be responsible for 15 percent of ozone depletion if, as expected, emissions continue to increase at the rate of five to six percent per year.

Methyl bromide is highly toxic to humans. Methyl bromide not only threatens the ozone layer, however, it has also proven to be highly toxic to humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for example, classifies methyl bromide as a "Category 1 acute toxin," the most deadly category of substances.

Numerous poisonings due to methyl bromide exposure have been reported. In California, where the chemical is widely used, there were 15 reported deaths between 1982 and 1990 due to methyl bromide exposure. California's Department of Pesticide Regulation also reported 148 systemic illnesses, 52 eye injuries, and 60 cases of skin injury due to methyl bromide exposure between 1982 and 1990.

Safer alternatives to methyl bromide exist. For most uses, less dangerous alternatives to methyl bromide currently exist. As the case studies included in this report demonstrate, many alternatives are already being employed in an effective and economical manner. Where alternatives are not currently identified, history suggests that decisive action to control methyl bromide will create incentives for the rapid development of previously overlooked or unforeseen alternatives.

Recommendations.

Industry, government, and consumers must work together to phase out methyl bromide use within the next five years. A complete set of recommendations is included in this report. They include:

- * Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer must amend the agreement to list and phase out methyl bromide, and provide funding to assist developing countries.
- * The U.S. Environmental Agency must list methyl bromide as a Class I substance, set a phaseout timetable, require recycling, ban applications where alternatives are available, and require warning labels on fumigated products.
- * The U.S. Department of Agriculture must revise existing quarantine regulations, which promote the use of methyl bromide in the U.S. and abroad.
- * Congress must expand the existing tax on ozone depleting chemicals to include a tax on methyl bromide.
- * The Ethyl Corporation and Great Lakes Chemical Company—the two U.S. companies that produce methyl bromide—must immediately cut production by 50 percent and cease all production within five years.
- * Agricultural users—including strawberry, tomato, and grape growers—must eliminate the use of methyl bromide as a soil fumigant by shifting to safer, sustainable farming practices and developing new alternatives where needed.
- * The pest control industry must eliminate the use of methyl bromide as a household and structural pesticide by shifting to safer available alternatives.
- * Companies that fumigate commodities with methyl bromide—such as grain processors—must eliminate the use of methyl bromide as a fumigant by adopting safer available alternatives, and employing recovery and recycling systems while developing additional alternatives where needed.

These actions are within our grasp and we must take them. Our health and the health of the environment depend on it.

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- * California Action Network
- * Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
- * California Institute for Rural Studies
- * Friends of the Earth
- * National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides
- * Natural Resources Defense Council
- * Pesticide Action Network -North American Region