

## **"LEGISLATURE UPDATE"**

During the last two years, California's Birth Defects Prevention Act (SB950), has been responsible for the loss of several significant pesticides used on golf courses. Agrichemical companies often find that the cost of killing data gaps as required by SB 950 to be substantially greater than the revenue generated by such products.

As difficult as the Birth Defects Act has been, it figures to have much less long term impact than a proposed ballet initiative sponsored by environmentalists and consumer advocates. The initiative called the "Food Safety and Pesticide Enforcement Initiative" would greatly strengthen restrictions on the type of pesticides applied by golf courses, landscapes and farmers; restrict the amount applied; and require broader testing for pesticides in groundwater and foods; and increase health warnings to workers.

The California Planning and Conservation League, a leading advocate of the initiative state that "unless it can be proven that a pesticide is safe and that it does not leave unsafe residues, then the pesticide cannot be used in California". Supporters of the initiative hope to raise two million dollars to insure passage of the measure which would appear on the June or November 1990 ballot.

In February, the Planning and conservation League mailed 25,000 letters to members of the environmental community asking for donations of twenty-five dollars or more. In addition, 40,000 members of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), the states largest consumer protection and environment defense organization have each pledged to collect five or more signatures of registered voters for the initiative.

Meanwhile, Agrichemical industry officials such as Elen Miller, Executive Director of the Western Agricultural Chemicals Association, questions the need for tighter restrictions on pesticides. For some she says it seems to be a case of "Let's get a petition and signatures whether there's a problem or not."

Jim Wells, California Department of Food and Agriculture special assistant in the Division of Pest Management says both the Birth Defects Prevention Act and the Pesticide Contamination-Prevention Act have boosted pesticide safety considerably. "The process is in place Wells

He further adds "there isn't a need for an initiative like this right now because there isn't the serious problem that's being portrayed in activist literature."

Article submitted by Chuck Dal Pozzo

Information for this article was provided by California Farmer Magazine.

## **OSHA KIT PROVIDES COMPLIANCE**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has produced the "Hazcom" kit. It provides companies with instructions for compliance with the expanded Hazard Communication Standard.

The expanded standard requires that all employers with employees exposed to hazardous chemicals establish hazard communication programs to transmit information on the hazards to those employees. These hazards should be communicated by labels on containers, material safety data sheets (MSDS) and training programs.

The OSHA kit provides step-by-step guidance on complying with the Hazard Communication Standard. Even though it was written for non-manufactures, it will equal the needs of all employers. Appendices include a copy of the Standard; a glossary of MSDS terms; listings of audiovisual products and publications; and a directory of OSHA area and regional offices plus other information to assist employers.

OSHA Kit is available for \$18.00 from Labelmaster, Division of American Labelmark Company, 5724 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, ILL.

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