

## ARE YOU WILLING TO SAVE OUR PESTICIDES?

Robert F. Ruppel  
Department of Entomology  
Michigan State University

Previously registered pesticides need to be reregistered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Any pesticide for which there is evidence of "undue hazard" (carcinogenicity, for example) will not be reregistered until studies on the risks and benefits of the use of that pesticide are made. This process is called "Rebuttable Preemptive Against Reregistration" (RPAR). There are presently about 20 RPAR pesticides. An additional 30 or so are expected to appear on the list soon. The RPAR pesticides can be manufactured, sold, and used until a decision based on the study is made. The decision will be made by the EPA and could range from simply reregistering the pesticide without change, to cancelling all uses of the pesticide.

The MSU Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service in cooperation with other states and the U. S. and Michigan Departments of Agriculture are participating in these RPAR studies. We are especially interested in identifying any special needs for continuing registration of the RPAR materials, determining the costs and benefits of these pesticides and any alternative pesticides or other methods of control, and in estimating the impact that cancellation of the pesticide would have on Michigan's economy. Much of the information can be obtained only from you and others who actually use the pesticides. You will be contact on your use of the pesticides over the next few years. Your responses will be confidential and are essential to a sound evaluation of pesticide use. We hope that you will cooperate with us in the defense of the pesticides that we need.