

# What we heard from you: *Municipal Roundtable discussions*

*CT K-8, EPA-Registered, Lawn Care Pesticide Ban Municipal Listen  
Sessions Summary*

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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



# EPA-Registered, Lawn Care Pesticide Ban History



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# P.A. 09-56 Enacted as a Result of Residents' Concerns About Children's Health and the Environment

- Passed in 2009
- Effect for daycare centers on October 1, 2009 and K-8 schools on July 1, 2010
- Education Statutes 10-231a-d



# Since the Inception of the Pesticide Ban, it has Encountered Opposition

- Municipalities- unfunded mandate
- Industry groups
- Sports Associations
- However, some towns have voluntarily gone beyond the ban, including town and high school fields





# EPA-Registered, Lawn Care Pesticide Ban Specifics



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# P.A. 09-56 Banned Lawn Care Pesticide Applications on the Grounds of Day Care Centers and K-8 Schools

- Pesticides labeled for use on lawn and/or ornamental sites
- EPA-registered pesticides include both synthetic and organic



## Current Law: “School Grounds” are Hard to Define

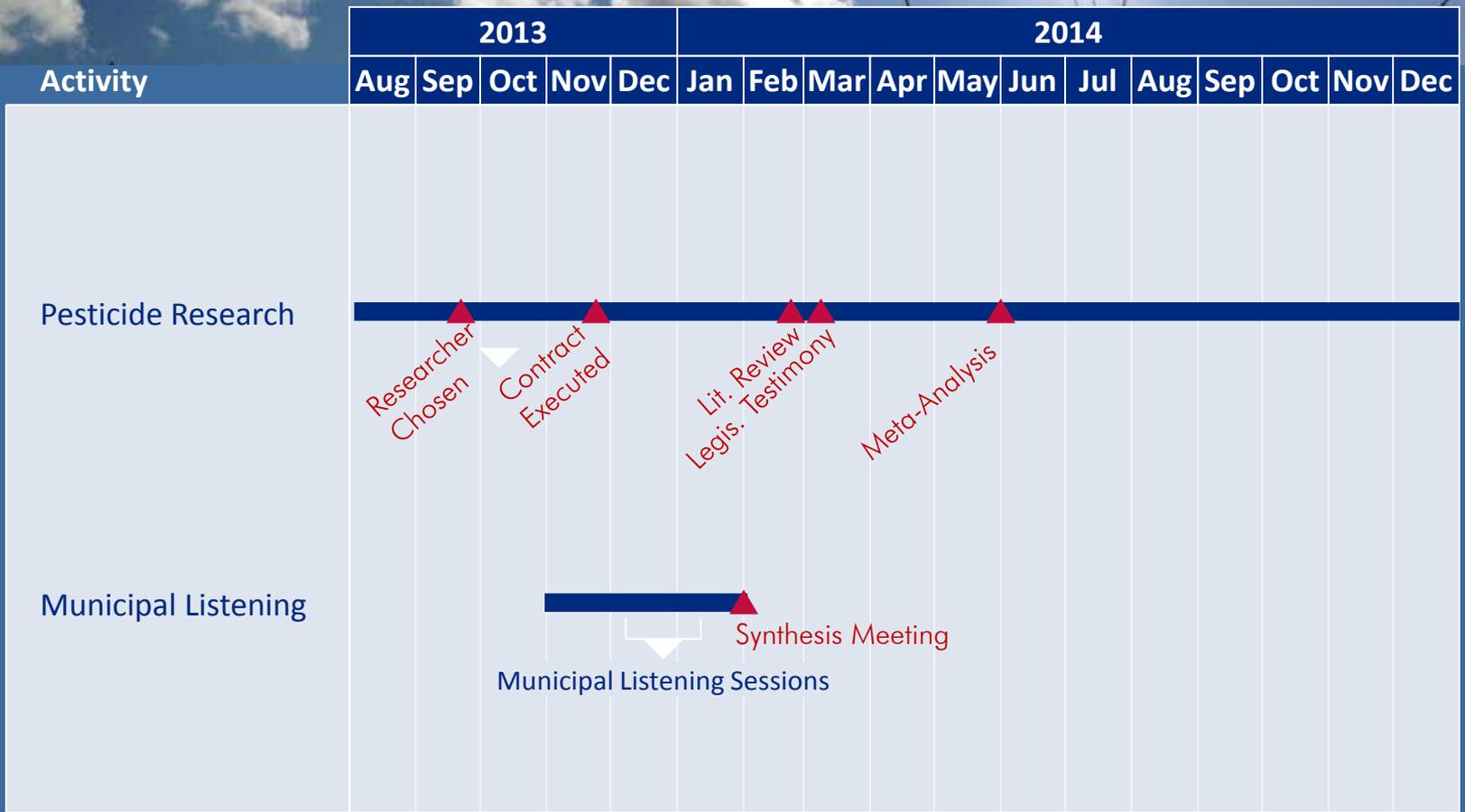
- Shared high school and lower grade fields
- Fields that are not owned by schools but K-8 children use for school recreation and sports
- Courtyards



# Current Law: Human Health Exemption Allows for Use of EPA-Registered Pesticides

- Determination of health threat may be made by local health directors, superintendents of public schools, DPH or DEEP
- Only need to make this determination to allow the use of lawn care pesticides (e.g., poison ivy treated by glyphosate)
- Notification of either type of application must be made by the normal method (i.e., to those parents/guardians who have registered for notification)
- Nuisance pests, such as dog ticks, biting flies or mosquitoes in the absence of indications they are carrying disease, are not considered a threat to human health sufficient to justify control with lawn care pesticides





# DEEP Pesticides Initiative



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# Listening sessions were roundtable discussions on challenges and opportunities within current policy

- 19 towns attended 4 Municipal Listening Sessions around the state, December 2013 and January 2014





# What We Heard from Municipalities



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## Based on NY law and municipal listening sessions, legislature should consider an overhaul of the policy in a variety of ways

- Flexibility for emergent issues such as environmental “threats” (e.g., invasives), grubs and weeds and clarity around using banned pesticides to control poison ivy
- Capital assistance from the state for start up and operating costs
- Online database of organic best practices and products
- Bulk state or regional buying of key commodities (seed, nematodes, etc.)
- Switch restriction to site based rather than product based
- Limit ban to ONLY short grass fields, no ornamentals, no wooded areas, etc.
- Make consistent throughout high traffic fields (K-12) so that one regime can be used everywhere
- Exempt Borates and Horticultural oils and microbial and biochemical pesticides



# Successful Towns have Invested Significant Capital and Operating Dollars into Changing Modalities

- Significant equipment and training investments
- Significant increase in operating costs
- Usually have a number of fields to rotate use
- Aided by artificial turf fields
- Municipal efforts backed by concerned of residents and parents
- Some Towns have Voluntarily Gone Beyond the Ban, Including Town and High School Fields



## Municipalities that Tried but Failed Often Lack the Capital and Operating Support to Successfully Manage Fields Under the Ban

- Strong opposition to turf field “flaws” from parents and athletic groups
- Small number of playing fields subject to intensive use
- Cannot afford artificial turf fields
- Difficulty choosing the most effective allowed product and understanding the timing and proper application of cultural methods



# Municipalities Need Flexibility to Be Successful

- Low toxicity solutions needed for:
  - Grubs
  - Crabgrass
  - Invasive species
- Not necessarily specific products but a process to identify ongoing needs and solutions



# Municipalities Need An Easy to Find Compilation Best Practices and Products

- Database created and hosted by an academic partner (UCONN?)
- Continued DEEP yearly forums on compliance with the law and research on the latest methods and products



# Some Municipalities Need Financial Assistance

- State revolving fund or grants for start-up capital expenses
- Bulk, group purchases of materials (e.g., grass seed) to reduce operating costs



# Municipalities Need Help Communicating/ Resetting Public Expectations for Turf Quality and Composition

- Monoculture very difficult to maintain
- Fields may need to be shut down and games cancelled due to weather and over-use
- Restrictions to protect sensitive receptors





# Ban Benchmarking



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# Bans Based on Toxicity to Sensitive Receptors

- European Union category ban of neonicotinoids for affect on bees
- Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec site based-ban on homeowner, lawn care “cosmetic” applications



# New York State Pesticide Ban Offers More Flexibility than the CT Ban

Condition	NY	CT
Restriction	Site (i.e., playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields)	Product and Label (i.e., lawn, ornamentals)
Schools	K-12	K-8
Plants	Only short-grass	Short-grass and ornamentals
Exemptions	EPA exempt (25b) pesticides and Borates and Horticultural oils	Only EPA exempt (25b) pesticides
Emergencies	Human Health and “Environmental Emergencies” (e.g., invasives)	Only Imminent Threats to Human Health
Regulating Agency	Dept. of Education	DEEP





# Next Steps



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# Municipality Thoughts, Ideas and Needs Will be Shared with Legislative Leadership

- Work with our environmental and industry partners and school and municipal associations to continue the message throughout the session



# DEEP will Continue to Support Ongoing Education and Resources to Help Municipalities Comply with the Ban

- Database created and hosted by an academic partner
- Continued DEEP yearly forums on compliance with the law and research on the latest methods and products

