



Personal Pesticide Protection

In the agricultural sector alone, an estimated 560,000 sites such as farms, forests, and greenhouses employ workers who are exposed to pesticides during their workday. Add to that the number of homeowners who apply pesticides both outdoors and inside their homes and the number is even larger. Individuals may harm themselves by coming into contact with these hazardous materials via their skin, lungs, eyes, or mouth. Of additional concern is the possibility that they will bring the pesticides into their homes on their garments and shoes, exposing other adults and—more importantly—vulnerable children.

The *Personal Pesticide Protection Program* offers a number of educational resources. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guides have information on protective garments and avoiding heat stress. Guidelines are provided for laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing. This is critical because transfer of pesticides onto other garments can take place in the washing machine. And a visual series, *Always Wear the Right Stuff*, explains pesticide risks, PPE selection information, and laundry procedures and can be viewed online. While intended for pesticide applicator training, it contains a comprehensive overview of the issues.

CONTACT

Department of Textiles and Apparel

Charlotte Coffman—Senior Extension Associate—cwc4@cornell.edu—(607) 255-2009

Web site: www.human.cornell.edu/che/TXA/Outreach/Programs/Personal-Pesticide-Protection/index.cfm

Cornell Farm to School Program

The *Cornell Farm to School Program* addresses three converging issues: childhood obesity, nutritional quality of school meals, and the need for new and strong markets for New York State agricultural producers. As a result schools, colleges, and universities purchase foods produced in the state, through established suppliers or directly from farmers.

By emphasizing fruits and vegetables, Farm to School addresses a critical health concern, since most of America's children do not meet dietary recommendations for these foods. By encouraging institutional procurement of foods from all food groups that are grown in-state, the program engages a broad spectrum of New York agricultural producers. Farm to School programs not only increase access to locally grown and raised foods to schools, these efforts are increasing student awareness and appreciation of local agriculture, providing market incentives for value-added ventures, and developing partnerships between stakeholder groups that heretofore rarely communicated.

The program website provides on-line resources, relevant links, policy updates, as well as “how to” pages for extension educators, nutrition professionals, food service directors, farmers, parents, and students.

CONTACT

Division of Nutritional Sciences

Jennifer Wilkins—Senior Extension Associate—(607) 255-2730—jlw15@cornell.edu

Web site: www.cce.cornell.edu/farmentoschool/

Residential Construction Waste Management Program

In an audit conducted by faculty at Cornell University, the total weight of waste generated in constructing a 1,900 square-foot house was 4,656 pounds. The main components were wood, gypsum, and cardboard, as well as plastic, metal, insulation materials, and trash. As landfill areas are becoming inundated with waste and sprawl threatens open areas, identifying disposal alternatives is critical.

Human Ecology faculty have published a guidebook called *Waste Management at the Construction Site*. Its objectives are to assist builders in determining both cost-effective and environmentally sound methods of handling and getting rid of construction waste, and well as to provide accurate, unbiased information that

home builders can use to design and implement waste management techniques. Consumers can also benefit by reading this publication. Since 60 to 90 percent of residential construction waste has recycling potential, individuals can make a difference.

CONTACT

Department of Design and Environmental Analysis

Joseph Laquatra—Professor—jl27@cornell.edu—607-255-2145

Mark Pierce—Extension Associate—mrp6@cornell.edu—(607) 255-0431

Web site: <http://housing.cce.cornell.edu/f-sht-pdf%20libraries/Waste%20management/waste%20management.pdf>

Plants and Textiles – A Legacy of Technology

Exciting our children and youth about science is critical to the strength of our nation. *Plants and Textiles – A Legacy of Technology* focuses on past and present technologies that convert plant materials to textile products. It engages youngsters through hands-on activities designed by a team of Cornell educators and undergraduates, and tested in diverse educational settings. Youth make a tool, try traditional techniques, research modern production, and link to a community agency such as a museum or nature center. Experiences in converting plant materials into fibrous products include papermaking, rope making, indigo dyeing, net making, and mat weaving.

The 4-H youth development program fosters a positive youth development approach that builds on young people's opportunities for mastery, belonging, generosity, and independence. Guidance is provided for teachers and leaders on ways to build these into the plants and textiles activities. The entire project is available online.

CONTACT

Department of Textiles and Apparel

Charlotte Coffman—Senior Extension Associate—cwc4@cornell.edu—(607) 255-2009

Web site: www.hort.cornell.edu/plantsandtextiles



Green Composites

Most composites (fiber-reinforced plastics) used at present are non-biodegradable. In addition, most commercially available fibers and resins are petroleum-based, non-renewable resources. Composites made using two dissimilar materials are difficult to recycle or reuse. Most of these non-degradable composites end up in landfills, making that land unusable for several decades. With significant yearly growth in the use of composites and plastics, the problem of their disposal has already become difficult and expensive.

Research in the College of Human Ecology is directed towards developing fully sustainable and environment-friendly 'green' composites with excellent properties that use yearly renewable plant-based fibers and resins. The processing of these composites is also water based and environment-friendly. After their intended use they can be easily disposed of or composted without harming the environment. Current versions of green composites are suitable for use in packaging, housing or transportation panels, and secondary and non-critical structural applications. The possibilities of fabricating high-strength (advanced) green composites have also been demonstrated.

Contact

Department of Textiles and Apparel

Anil Netravali—Professor—(607) 255-1875—ann2@cornell.edu

Web site: www.ntcresearch.org/pdf-rpts/AnRp02/F01-CR01-A2.pdf