

Science backs Suzuki Foundation: academic

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By Caroline Snyder Ph. D.

Editor:

The David Suzuki Foundation is right about the serious problems linked to using sewage sludge as fertilizer.

John Werring's letter to Mayor Brian Milne is based on a substantial body of peer reviewed published research and field reports indicating that sludge use is neither safe, beneficial, nor sustainable.

It would be prudent to consult independent non-industry sources for accurate information about sludge, rather than only depending on Lystek's assurances.

Those of us who are experts, publish in the scientific literature, participate in conferences, testify before legislators, work with scientists, attorneys, farmers, and sludge victims. We can assure your readers that both the U.S. and Canadian regulations that govern this risky practice are totally inadequate.

The most recent National Academy of Sciences biosolids report warned that these regulations are based on flawed risk assessment models, outdated science, or no science at all.

Hundreds of cattle have sickened and died after ingesting forage grown on land treated with sludge. Farm land has been permanently poisoned. Wells have become polluted. And many sludge-exposed rural neighbors suffer serious gastrointestinal and respiratory ailments.

This mixture of toxic industrial waste and antibiotic resistant pathogens does not belong on land where we grow our food or graze our livestock.

For accurate information about the risks linked to using sludge as fertilizer visit www.sludgefacts.org

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