

Dear Principal [REDACTED] and Teachers, Students and Parents of [REDACTED] School:

We are writing to alert you that the "organic" garden your students are using to grow vegetables and fruits may have been contaminated by products made from sewage sludge that was provided by Kellogg Garden Products through its partnership with the Environmental Media Association (EMA). You, your teachers, students, and parents have a right to know if sewage sludge products are being handled by children and being used to grow the food they are eating.

As part of EMA's "adoption" of the gardens, it gave your school an order form from Kellogg that included--on the front page--"compost" made from sewage sludge from the Los Angeles County sewage treatment plant.

You may or may not know that sewage sludge is prohibited by law for use as a "fertilizer" on certified organic farms.


Sewage sludge is a hazardous material containing a stew of toxic contaminants including dioxins, heavy metals, PCBs, flame retardants, endocrine disruptors, pharmaceutical residues, phthalates, industrial solvents, pathogens, and perfluorinated compounds. Neither heating nor composting the sludge removes toxic substances like heavy metals and dioxins, or makes it safe.

As part of our investigation, we also discovered that the LAUSD's master gardener, Mud Baron, raised concerns about the potential for sludge in Kellogg products in 2009, but that EMA continued to offer sludge-based products to your school. Kellogg's sewage-sludge products use the word "organics" on the label and do not list "sewage sludge" as an ingredient.

We strongly recommend that you remediate the soil contaminated with sewage sludge. This will consist of any gardens or plots where any of the following Kellogg products were used: Amend, Topper, Gromulch, or Nitrohumus. This soil should then be replaced with genuine organic compost.

We hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Graves, Executive Director
Food Rights Network/ Center for Media and Democracy
608-260-9713

Enclosed:

Order form for Kellogg Donations
List of 2010 Donations by Kellogg
Test Results of Contaminants in Sewage Sludge Products
Affidavit of Mud Baron
Letter on Sludge Safety by Scientist Murray McBride