

Transcription of Tom Theobald's video

My name's Tom Theobald, I own the Niwot Honey Farm, and I have been a beekeeper for 35 years and this will be year number 36.

I have been concerned about my own bees and defects that

I was seeing in the brood beyond bees and began investigating and I uncovered a series of memos which documented

The handling of a neonicotinoid pesticide called Clothianidin. Clothianidin is almost unique because

is a very, very pervasive chemicals. It's water soluble, which means that it's systemic to the plants, it gets into the vascular system, it's carried to all parts of the plant.

It gets into the ground water and it's mobile in the ground water,

it can be accumulated in the soil and ground water with successive planting of seeds of treated crops, which is customary in the corn belt.

It affects insects' central nervous system in ways that are cumulative and irreversible, which means that

it could have a profound effect when minute amounts are encountered over time.

In 2003 Clothianidin was given a conditional approval, the condition being the successful completion of the lifecycle study.

The lifecycle study was intended to measure the effects of this pesticide on the bees over a long period of time.

In the original memorandum they outlined very clearly what their concerns were about the hazards to the honeybees. Concerns about the viability of the queen, and brood,

and the long term consequences and the danger of this product. The lifecycle study was supposed to be completed

during the first growing season in 2003 and delivered to the EPA by December 2004.

This life cycle study was not completed till the end of august of 2006 and was not reviewed by the EPA for another 15 months

despite the questions surrounding it and the concerns.

I looked at this study and it really it was not scientifically sound, anyone could see that. And James Frazier, the scientist at Penn State (University)

just said that, when he first saw it, that he thought that it was unsound. So I wrote an article in the July issue of Bee Culture, I got a call in November from an EPA employee

informing me that they had requested registration on two additional seed crops, mustard and cotton, and partly because of my article they had gone back and reviewed the initial study and determined that it was not scientifically sound.

And I asked if it had been documented and they said yes and I asked for a copy and it was sent to me.

And that is what has become the famous leaked document. It was the condition under which conditional registration was granted and successful conclusion

Of which cleared the way for full registration. So now we have a product that has not satisfied the due requirements for registration and the EPA proposes that sales will simply continue.

It appears that they feel like and just pick and choose from the regulations and honor only those ones that don't inconvenience industry. If the EPA just chooses to select those regulations that they want and ignore the others, there is no regulation. The primary charge of the EPA is the prevention of any unreasonable risks for men

and the environment, and they have not done so. The environment has become an experiment and we've all become experimental subjects. This product was on the market for 8 growing seasons ensuing a

conditional registration, the condition being a study which was ultimately rejected by EPA scientist now. The question is: on what basis was this product going to continue to be sold? We are concerned about this specific pesticide, clothianadin, but we are much more concerned about the regulatory process that led to its use on the market for 8 growing seasons under a cloud of serious concern.

And there are apparently other pesticides and other chemicals which have been introduced into the market under the same conditions. We believe that we have to go back

and evaluate just how the regulatory system

is working or is not working, or we'll just be facing some other

poison a year from now. I'm asked frequently what people can do. At this point I think the greatest contribution

that people can make is to take the time and energy to understand the issues, so that as we debate these questions in public we gather an informed public who can engage in those discussions.

And there are three website that they can go to: Beyondpesticides, the Pesticide Action Network or Bouldercountybeekeepers.org, which is our

local website, and we have most of the information on there. They can read and evaluate it for themselves.

I think the important thing to remember here is that we can _____ this product and be dealing with another one a year from now, unless we go back and change the conditions that led to what appears to have a very serious environmental _____ far beyond the bees.

Transcription by Unaapi