

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MEMORANDUM

NOV 26 1980

OFFICE OF  
 WATER

Subject: Results of Monsanto survey of 5 pesticides in drinking water wells

From: Jeanne Briskin, Director *J. Briskin*  
 National Pesticide Survey

To: Addressees

Monsanto recently completed a survey of alachlor, metolachlor, atrazine, cyanazine, simazine and nitrate in private rural wells in the alachlor use area (corn, soybeans and peanut growing areas.) Among the major findings, Monsanto estimates that 3000 people are exposed to alachlor, 29,000 people are exposed to atrazine, and one million people are exposed to more than 10 ppm nitrate from private domestic water supply wells in the alachlor use area.

Monsanto found the strongest relationship between the presence of pesticide or nitrate and intense row cropping in areas of higher ground water vulnerability. There was no statistically significant relationship between point sources and contamination of drinking water wells.

When reviewing this report keep in mind the similarities and differences from EPA's National Pesticide Survey:

	EPA Survey	Monsanto Survey
Statistical design	stratified random sample	very similar to EPA
Wells studied	public and domestic wells	domestic wells
Number of analytes	126 pesticides, degradates plus nitrate	5 pesticides plus nitrate
Area of coverage	entire U.S.	alachlor use area

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