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'It kills everything, it kills bird and bees, it harms children and farm workers'

by NBC 16

Monday, March 25th 2019

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This block features a decorative banner with a dark blue background. On the left, there is a small image of a green plant stem. To its right are three colored squares: blue, yellow, and red. Below these elements, the text "If your Social Security number was on the Dark Web, would you know?" is displayed in a light, semi-transparent font. The banner is bordered by a dark blue L-shaped shape on the right and bottom.

LANE COUNTY, Ore. - Two bills restricting certain pesticides will get hearings tomorrow in the Oregon legislature.

Marie Bowers is a fifth generation farmer at Bashaw Land and Seed in Harrisburg .

Things changed for her family farm in 2010 when field burning was banned in the Willamette Valley.

Now pesticides are a tool she uses to keep the bugs at bay.

"We would lose a good chunk of our yield, about 50 percent of our yield to bugs and weeds if

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Now she's concerned about two proposed bills, [SB 853](#) and [HB 3058](#), that would ban a type of pesticides called chlorpyrifos.

Lisa Arkin is director of Beyond Toxics, one of the supporters of the bill.

She says studies have shown that this particular type of pesticide can be extremely harmful

"It kills everything, it kills bird and bees, it harms children and farm workers," said Arkin.

Another aspect of the bill restricts the use of neonicotinoids - a chemical that can currently be found in common garden and pest products.

It would require certification to use the pesticide so the average person can't go spray it in their

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when and where types of chemical can be used to reduce the impact to pollinators.

"If we didn't have to use chemical we wouldn't use chemicals but sometimes that your only option," she said.

At a hearing on the bills in Salem, both women will be ready to defend their take on the issue.

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