

Ken Foster Farm Public Health Report

Oregon Public Health's Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) has released a report evaluating the public health impact environmental contamination at the Ken Foster Farm site. This fact sheet summarizes the findings most relevant to residents.

WHAT DID EHAP FIND?*

- Chromium, antimony, mercury, and iron across the site were below levels of concern. However, two sample locations present a public health hazard because of elevated levels of lead in the soil. If children were to come into contact with soil (by swallowing it) at these locations everyday over several years, health effects could occur. However, no children are currently living near these locations.
- Exposure to metals through gardening and consuming homegrown foods is of potential health concern at these same two locations and one additional location.

Recommendation Highlights:

- Residents who live on properties where elevated levels have been identified should avoid activities, including gardening, in those areas.
- It is unlikely that children will come into contact with the soil at the identified locations. However, residents who are concerned about their child's blood lead levels should talk with the child's health care provider about having a blood lead test. (See back for ways to reduce exposure to lead).

*See full report for complete list of conclusions and recommendations

What is Ken Foster Farm?

Ken Foster Farm is a 40-acre area located in Sherwood. Animal waste from a tannery was applied to the land in the 60's and possibly '70s. In 2005, the soil was found to be contaminated by metals such as chromium, iron, lead, and antimony. In July 2006, EPA conducted an investigation of the site, testing soil, sediment and groundwater and surface water. Eight homes currently exist on the site and further residential development is underway.

Should I be concerned about the contamination at Ken Foster Farm?

Most residents do not need to be concerned about the health impact of the contamination. Based on the current data, there are specific sample locations on two properties where contaminant levels are of concern. The property owners impacted have been notified directly.

Additional soil data is recommended to rule out the possibility that other locations exist where lead levels are elevated.

How can I reduce my child's exposure to lead-contaminated soil?

- Enforce a clean hands policy. Frequent handwashing, especially after outside activities and before eating can significantly reduce environmental exposures.
- Take off shoes before entering the house. Lead-contaminated soil adhere to shoes and then can be tracked throughout the house.
- Wipe pets' feet before letting them back in the house.
- Regularly clean hard floor surfaces with a damp mop.

How can I have my child tested for lead exposure?

Your child's health care provider or the local health department can do a blood test to find out your child's blood lead levels.

Where can I get more information about preventing lead exposure?

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/lead/index.shtml>, OR
contact Barbara Zeal, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 971-673-0440

Where can I find the full Ken Foster Farm report?

You can download a copy of the full report at the website listed below or review at your local library. EHAP will be accepting comments on the report from the public until November 23, 2007

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/shine/kfsite.shtml>

Sherwood Public Library
22560 SW Pine Street
Sherwood, Oregon

If you have questions about the findings or would like more information, please contact:

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