

## Patsy Shafchuk

I am allergic to many modern chemicals. Most of this is general sensitivity, but I have had horrible skin rashes because of preservatives in meat, cosmetic products, and soaps and laundry detergents - and even whiteners in tooth paste! How do I know about whiteners in toothpaste which of course are not even swallowed? Because the whitening agent causes the skin inside my mouth to peel off. After using that stuff, I literally have to wipe out the inside of my mouth to get the dead skin out! I pay a premium for organic products. I read labels. I check nutrition facts. What does this have to do with pesticides? First, some GMO crops produce their own pesticides. No amount of scrubbing will wash that off. Second, if neonicotinoids can kill insects who are searching for nectar, the neonicotinoids are also being passed to me. Third, many of these insanely dangerous chemicals persist in the environment where they accumulate and cause damage later. I don't need a scientist to tell me that cancer is an environmental disease. Cancer used to be relatively rare. Now it's so common that most of us expect that dreaded announcement at some time. Third, deformities in fish are being used as markers to gauge the severity of pollution in rivers and the types of chemicals that can cause them. Fourthly, after the as\*\*\*le governor of Michigan failed to be indicted for switching the water source of low income people of Flint to the Flint river 'to save money,' no one trusts the government to safeguard the health of the people at large. No one trusts either the EPA or the FDA to give a crap about the common good anymore. We are very clear about it. Government agencies don't care how we die or when. And most of us feel pretty sure that the low sperm count in males is part and parcel of the chemical onslaught we are forced to endure. We understand that it's all about mammon. Would you like to build some trust for your agency? Stand up to chemical companies! Fight for the common good! Call a halt to the slow poisoning of people everywhere! Name names. At the very least, name those inert chemicals that we eat even though we are paying top dollar for poison-free food. Just stop it!!