

**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY  
ABSTRACTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL**

**DTSC INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SAMPLING AGRICULTURAL  
FIELDS THAT ARE PROPOSED SCHOOL SITES.**

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Some of the proposed new school sites being evaluated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are situated on land previously used for agriculture. These are properties where pesticides were uniformly applied for agricultural purposes consistent with normal application practices. In order to provide a uniform approach for evaluating these sites, the Human and Ecological Risk Division (HERD) has developed guidance for the sampling and analysis of soils from agricultural fields. This guidance can be summarized as a flow chart, beginning with a determination of whether or not the site qualifies as an agricultural property. If the site history indicates the property qualifies as an agricultural site, guidance is provided on: 1) the number of samples to collect based on the size of the site; 2) the class of chemicals to be evaluated based on the history of past crop production and pesticide use; 3) the methods of analysis to be used including acceptable detection limits; and 4) suggestions on how to interpret the results of the sampling and analysis. To date DTSC has reviewed over 75 agricultural sites that have been evaluated with this guidance. The types of pesticides most often detected, the range of detections, and those pesticides that have driven a risk-based removal action will be discussed.