



Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination



WHAT FARMERS NEED TO KNOW

Toxic Contamination at Stoneridge Farm in Arundel, ME

Our clients, Fred and Laura Stone, own and operate Stoneridge Farm in Arundel, ME—a dairy farm that has been in their family for over 100 years. They are no longer able to sell their product because their land, water, and cow milk were contaminated with high levels of PFOS.

As a result of the contamination, the Stones have been forced to shut down their dairy operations and are at great risk of losing their livelihood and family business.

Related Articles

May 23, 2019: Initial test results reveal “forever chemicals” showing up in fertilizer sludge

March 23, 2019: Maine dairy farm plagued by chemical contaminants may be “tip of the toxic iceberg”

Highest Level of PFOS in Milk Reported

In Maine, “adulterated” milk containing unsafe levels of PFOS cannot be sold for human consumption when levels exceed 210 parts per trillion (ppt).

According to a study done by the Environmental Health Strategy Center, PFOS levels of **1420 ppt** were measured in milk from Stoneridge Farm in 2016. Not only are these levels unsafe, but they are far higher than reported in any study, based on a sampling of the published scientific literature.

PFAS Contamination and Unsafe Sludge

Contamination of Stoneridge Farm likely resulted from the spreading of sludge on the farm as far back as the 1980s. Beginning around that time, many farms in Maine accepted industrial (paper mill) and municipal sludge as an additive to the soil. Farmers were promised that the sludge was safe and contained no contaminants or hazardous chemicals. But it wasn't safe, because it contained high levels of PFAS.

Manufacturers Hid the Dangers of PFAS

The companies that make PFAS were aware of the hazards of these chemicals but chose to hide this information from the public.

The more we investigate the Stoneridge Farm case, the more we realize that the Stones are not alone. Other farmers, business owners, water districts, and private citizens in Maine and New Hampshire have been harmed by the decision of these corporations to conceal the risks of PFAS.

Learn How We Can Help

If you believe that you or your business have suffered harm from PFAS contamination—or need to conduct testing to determine whether you are at risk of contamination—we are interested in speaking with you. We do not charge for this consultation, and may be able to help fund the costs of testing the water and soil on your land if your situation meets our criteria.



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WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW

What are PFAS?

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made “forever chemicals” that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.

Popular because of their ability to repel heat, oil, and water, PFAS have been found in food packaging materials, cleaning products, non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and some firefighting foams.

PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and the human body; they don't break down easily and can accumulate to dangerous levels over time.

PFAS Exposure

PFAS contamination may be found in food, water, some consumer products, and workplaces. Most non-worker exposure occurs when these chemicals seep into the air, soil, and local water supplies.

Contaminated drinking water is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example:

- an industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products
- an oil refinery, airfield or other location at which PFAS were used for firefighting

PFAS and Human Health

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, PFOA has been detected in the blood of more than 98% of the population in the United States. It is a toxic carcinogen in animals.

There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health effects in humans. If ingested by eating food or drinking water with PFAS, the chemicals can be absorbed and stay in the body.

Some scientific studies suggest that PFAS may:

- affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and children
- lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant
- interfere with the body's natural hormones
- increase cholesterol levels
- affect the immune system
- increase the risk of cancer

Protecting Yourself from PFAS

Because PFAS are present at low levels in food products and the environment, you cannot prevent exposure altogether. However, you can take steps to reduce your risk of exposure by:

- becoming educated about the issues related to PFAS through CDC, FDA, EPA, and NIH websites
- using an alternative or treated water source
- checking for fish advisories
- reading consumer product labels and avoiding those with PFAS