

# *Safe Food and Fertilizer Brochure*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Through laborious and energetic research in the late 1980's and early 1990's, former mayor of Quincy, Washington, Patty Martin, launched a fledging campaign that ultimately exposed the hideous truth about fertilizer production and toxic waste in small towns and industry across the nation. She discovered that American industries are dumping toxic waste into farmers' fields and home gardens by labeling it "fertilizer". As a public official and a concerned parent, Patty's campaign clashed with the largest and most influential employers and business men in her community, as well as professional lobbyists working to protect the interests of the fertilizer industry. Against all odds, she stood her ground. She enlisted the help of investigative reporter Duff Wilson; together they launched a successful campaign and uncovered a nationwide problem of contamination, corruption and greed.

To this day Patty Martin continues her efforts to educate the public and to protect public health and the environment. She is deeply involved in grassroots networking efforts, public speaking, and promoting legislation that bans the use of hazardous and other industrial wastes in fertilizer, soil amendments and animal feeds. She reports that she is working at local and federal levels for the establishment of national standards to provide technical, regulatory, and educational assistance to organizations, individuals, and elected officials.

# Project Objective

## MY CONTRIBUTION/PLAN

As our studies progress in Environmental Health and Community, I am beginning to understand the magnitude of environmental contamination and some of the issues around soil, water, and air pollution. My life experience and my passion for the social sciences heavily influence my perspective. For over a decade I have been deeply and actively involved in the corporate industry of real estate here in Thurston County. During my tenure in sales and marketing, I was most heavily involved in the production of promotional products for my own and my co-workers listings of real property including resale, new construction, and vacant land. Now, I would like to put that skill to a higher and better use and devote my expertise supporting Patty Martin in providing public relations and promotional/informational materials. My first effort will be in the form of an informational brochure entitled *Safe Food and Fertilizer* (the title of Patty's web site). My goal is to create an attractive, informational brochure to enhance Patty's ability to reach out. The *Safe Food and Fertilizer* brochure is intended for use in public agencies, focus groups, community organizations and even schools.

Patty Martin's campaign is still young and virtually without funding. Her personal expenses probably exceed thousands of dollars and thousands of hours in truth seeking, record keeping, and outreach efforts. I am deeply touched by Patty's unwavering devotion and the energy she has given to this exceptional project over

nearly twenty years. It would be very satisfying to contribute something of value for the greater good and I feel that I have something to give in a very practical way.

The brochure is intended for the average American, designed to inform, heighten awareness, and to create a sense of heartfelt concern and caution as a consumer. I

hope the *Safe Food and Fertilizer* brochure will inspire people to seek additional information and help people recognize that each one of us can make a positive contribution to the care of our planet.

## *Resources*

### BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS

Patty Martin has provided all the information from her web site as well as identifying other web sites that may be useful. I am communicating with Patty.

[SafeFoodandFertilizer.org](http://SafeFoodandFertilizer.org)

[seattletimes.nwsources.com/news/fields.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/news/fields.html)

Research materials include Duff Wilson's *Fateful Harvest*, Theo Colborn's *Our Stolen Future*, and Sandra Steingraber's *Living Downstream*.

I am meeting with professional environmental journalist John Dodge and seeking his advice.

# *Safe Food and Fertilizer Brochure Project Proposal*

Jean Holbrook  
Environmental Health and Community  
February 15, 2004

Environmental activists have made great strides in recent years in their efforts to educate the public and to broaden public awareness regarding the devastating wave of destruction humans have unleashed on the environment during the years since the industrial revolution.

Throughout the United States and across the globe streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans have been polluted through dumping of waste materials by both industries and local governments (P.U.D.'s, city water and sewage treatment plants, recycling efforts, oil spills, etc.).

My project objective is to support and heighten environmental awareness for the general public through media. I am creating a *Safe Food and Fertilizer* brochure in support of Patty Martin's campaign against toxic waste in fertilizer.