

Smith abstract

PFAS Contamination in the Agricultural Ecosystem – Impacts on farm food commodities, well water, and fish and game

The land application of waste residuals contaminated with PFAS on farmland has resulted in the contamination of agriculture ecosystem. Maine agencies have documented a number of exposure pathways resulting from this soil contamination. This presentation will discuss case studies of PFAS contamination of dairy milk and beef from the consumption of contaminated forage crops, PFAS contamination of private wells located in close proximity to farm fields and subsequent contamination of chicken eggs from use of contaminated well water, PFAS contamination of fish from surface waters impacted by farm fields, and PFAS contamination of deer and turkey harvested in close proximity to contaminated farm fields. The approaches and challenges of determining how much is too much PFAS in agriculture food commodities, fish and game, and soils will be discussed.