

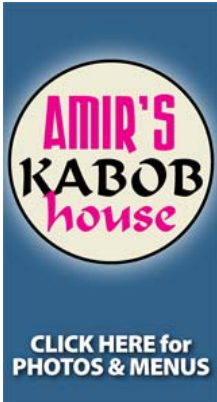
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BERRY CONCERNED: Pesticide Watch community organizer Elsa Dooling stands in the organic strawberry field of Alba farmer Maria Luz Reyes at La Milpa Organic Farm in Salinas. Photo by Nic Coury

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STRAWBERRY COMPLEX

Methyl iodide safety debate gasps on.

By [Sena Christian](#)

Residents of Moss Landing Heights used to peacefully coexist with the artichoke farm across the street from their subdivision. The occasional dust and noise was a small price to pay to live in such a tight-knit, friendly neighborhood. But then the farmer decided to grow strawberries, which meant potentially fumigating the soil.

"We saw fumigants as a whole different ball game," said resident

Marilyn Lynds.

An international protocol is phasing out common strawberry fumigant methyl bromide, an ozone depleter. But what may have initially

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