

WEATHER FORECAST

FOR SEPTEMBER 1968

PRECIPITATION is expected to exceed normal over a wide area from the Pacific Northwest through the Rockies and Plains to the Great Lakes Region. Subnormal totals are expected in the Southeast and the far Southwest while near normal amounts are in prospect in unspecified areas.

TEMPERATURES are expected to average above normal over the South and portions of the Ohio Valley. Below normal values are expected from the Northern and Central Plains to the Southwest, and also in the Northeast. Near normal temperatures are in prospect elsewhere.

Pesticide Accidents Prove Costly

Farmers in different sections of the country suffered varying degrees of economic loss during June and July as the result of accidents generally involving failure to use pesticides properly or observe safety precautions in the use of pesticides. 55 head of cattle and 15 swine were killed and eight bee colonies badly damaged in nine separate pesticide mishaps reported to USDA's Pesticides Regulation Division during this two-month period.

By far the leading cause of these animal poisonings and bee deaths was "failure to follow directions" and related misuse

Other major identifiable causes were improper storage and incorrect disposal of pesticides. Some of the circumstances reportedly involved in these accidents were:

- Thirty-five Angus cattle had been grazing the spring growth in a field of wheat just before it was sprayed with endrin for the owner. Following the spraying, they returned to the field through an open gate from an adjoining pasture. Within 10 hours, seven cows — all with calves — were dead. The eighth died a few days later. The rest recovered. Analysis of tissues

and milk from the dead cows confirmed the presence of endrin.

- Four cows died after eating sodium arsenite left in a drum and boat near a pond. The material had been used for weed control three years ago.

- The 15 swine died after being sprayed with toxaphene. In addition to being exposed to the spray, they apparently ingested some of the material from small pools in the cracked cement of the area where they were treated.

- Eleven head of cattle were lost as a result of feeding in a

pasture that had been contaminated by endrin released from spray planes in the area. The pasture in question was not the target area. Apparently, the pilots were emptying their tanks of any remaining spray after a run.


- Two head of cattle died after ingesting atrazine, a weed killer, left in the back of a jeep where the cattle had access to it.

- Eight bee colonies were badly damaged by the use of Sevin in the area. The beekeepers had not been warned in advance of the spray program, despite the fact that all Sevin products are required to bear the following container statement: "For protection of honey bees, avoid use, if possible, during periods when honey bees are visiting the crop."

When necessary to use during such periods, warn beekeepers well in advance to locate hives at a safe distance until one week after application."

Carelessness in the handling, application, or storage of pesticides can pose a very real hazard to people — including the farmer, his workers, his family and neighbors. In the case of valuable livestock and useful insects, this same carelessness can impose a penalty in terms of dollars and cents that the farmer or rancher can ill afford.

We used to hear "It isn't whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." But — ever hear of a coach getting a raise for building character during a losing season?



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