

Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

USDA Probes Some Pesticides

The U S Department of Agriculture said this week it is investigating some commonly-used pesticides to determine whether they contain hazardous amounts of a toxic contaminant that may have caused birth deformities in laboratory mice exposed to the herbicide 2, 4, 5-T

Ned D Bayley, director of Science and Education, said the inquiry was initiated after new data submitted to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, indicated that the 2, 4, 5-T used in a study conducted by Bionetics Research Laboratories for HEW contained 27 parts per million of tetrachlorodibenzo-

about 1 ppm of this contaminant generally found in the herbicide.

The new data show that preliminary tests of 2, 4, 5-T with 1 ppm of this contaminant give no indication of birth deformities, Bayley stated in a letter on the subject to Rep Richard D McCarthy of New York. It was the Bionetics study of 2, 4, 5-T, along with other pesticides, which was cited last October when it was announced that the Department of Agriculture would cancel registrations of this herbicide for use on food crops effective January 1, 1970, unless by that time the Food and Drug Administration, HEW, had established a safe legal tolerance for such use.

"We are awaiting advice from DHEW as to whether or not they intend to establish tolerances for 2, 4, 5-T before we decide whether

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Wheat Loan Program & Sale Policy Set

Wheat from the 1969 crop eligible for price-support loans in on-farm storage or in commercial storage can have loans extended (resealed) following regular maturity dates in the spring and summer of 1970, it was announced today by the U S Department of Agriculture. Concurrently, USDA announced its CCC wheat sales policy for the marketing year beginning July 1. Reseal loans will continue to be available on 1968-crop wheat in on-farm and commercial storage, and on 1967-crop farm stored wheat but not on older crops of wheat.

Approximately 42 million

RECORD KEEPING

A special program to outline an agriculture records program developed by Penn State will be held at 8 p m Tuesday, Feb 17, at the Farm and Home Center.

Speaker will be William H Dickinson, farm management specialist, who will outline the electronic system developed at the university.

Wives are extended a special invitation, since many keep the farm records.

bushels of wheat from the 1964, 1965 and 1966 crops in farm storage and 55 million bushels of 1967 crop in commercial storage will not be continued under reseal loan after the 1970 maturity dates. These dates for the 1966 and 1967 crops are April 30 in all States except

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Farm Briefs

No Change Made In Poultry Inspection

There will be no changes made in the long-standing Federal inspection policy under which poultry affected with diseases of the leukosis complex are condemned. This was emphasized last week by Secretary of Agr Clifford M Hardin who noted that his decision — which overrides a recommendation made by a USDA advisory committee — was made following receipt of a report USDA requested from the U S Surgeon General.

Secretary Hardin also emphasized that he concurred with Surgeon General Jesse L Steinfeld's contention that even though there is no known link between the poultry leukosis viruses and human disease, nor any known hazard to human health, "it is aesthetically undesirable and unacceptable to pass for human food any poultry showing visible signs of leukosis lesions or tumors." Thus, such poultry will continue to be regarded as totally unfit for human consumption.

Cattle Numbers On Farms At Record High

More cattle and calves, chickens and turkeys on farms, but fewer hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs, according to USDA's 1970 Livestock and Poultry Inventory issued last week. Cattle and calves on farms on Jan. 1 totaled 112.3 million head, up 2 pct. from a year earlier and record high. But, dairy cow numbers were at record lows.

Dairy cattle 2 years and older at 13.9 million head, were down 2 pct. from a year earlier and the lowest since 1886. Heifers 1 to 2 years, at 3.5 million, and

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