

Pa. Pesticide Review Board Sought by PFA

John R. Pitzer, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, has recommended creation of an Ecological Review Board "to study pesticide materials as related to environment."

He also called for enactment of legislation that gives the secretary of agriculture "power to restrict any pesticide that does not meet the approval of the Ecological Review Board."

In asking closer supervision and regulation of sales and use of pesticides, Pitzer asked that all custom spray operators be licensed and carry adequate insurance to cover the period before the license is issued.

The Adams County orchardist said "modern agriculture is dependent upon the wise use of agricultural chemicals" and Pennsylvania agriculture would suffer a \$586.9 million setback if farm chemicals were banned.

"The wise use of agricultural chemicals is important and essential for the production of food and fiber. A sound solution to the control and use of farm chemicals cannot be based on emotionalism, it must be based on available information and facts," Pitzer said.

The PFA president's remarks were made recently at a hearing in Allentown before an ad hoc committee studying state pesticide legislation. Affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the PFA is a general farm organization with 11,706 farm family members and 47 county affiliates.

"If a pesticide is banned, which may happen in extreme cases, an emergency board (should be) established to determine the use of pesticides in the event an epidemic or catastrophic condition

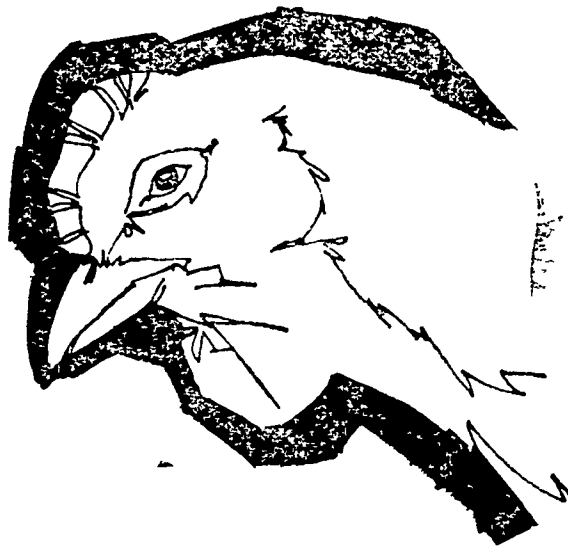
exists." Composition of this emergency board would include the secretaries of agriculture, health and forests and waters.

The fruit grower said his organization is working for combined research on the development of highly effective, economical and low residue insecticides that would be satisfactory substitutes for those pesticides which would be banned. He urged careful and intelligent use and handling of insecticides and pesticides by farmers, custom spray operators, government agencies, utilities and the home gardener.

"Modern agriculture is dependent upon the wise use of agricultural

chemicals in the production, processing and distribution of foods and fibers. Use of these chemicals have increased per acre yield for every crop from 25 per cent to more than 200 per cent.

"The increased per acre yields of crops are important to everyone of us, and not just because our food prices thereby are less. Of course it is important that the income cost of food today is one-half of what it was in 1911. About 16-17 per cent of our spendable income now goes for food, compared to 56 per cent in Russia, 27 per cent in Sweden, 38 per cent in Italy, 40 per cent in Peru and 70 per cent in Nigeria.



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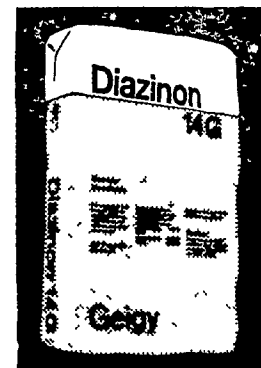
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