

Seminar to Study Farm Role in Pollution

Agriculture's role in environmental pollution will be explained at an Agricultural Leader Seminar at Lancaster Monday.

Don Uglow and Jack Beideman of Geigy Agricultural Chemicals, a division of Geigy Chemical Corporation, will review various sources of pollution and explain that when placed in proper perspective agriculture is a very small factor in the total problem.

"Agriculture has already done much to correct possible problem areas," said Beideman. "Because the farm industry is aware that any pollution source can be important."

Most of the pesticides now in use are not highly toxic and offer little real threat to man's health and safety of the environment, provided they are properly used.

These are factors that will be pointed out by basic research carried out by various government and independent agencies.

Uglow will discuss four major areas of possible agricultural pollution: air erosion, fertilizers, animal wastes and pesticides.

What will create problems government and private research, continued farm education and improved crop and livestock management techniques have combined to reduce or eliminate most of these problems, he said.

"The paradox of the agricultural situation," Beideman observed, "is that many of the activities unjustly blamed for contamination of the environment are those most needed to meet the demands of world food

requirements. They are the factors that contribute most to greater agricultural efficiency.

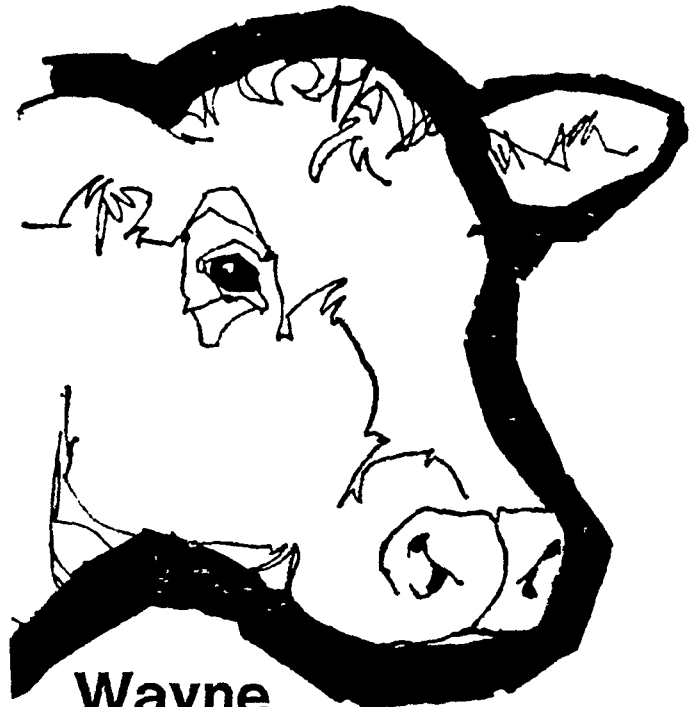
To keep up with the worldwide demand for high quality food, farmers rely on modern technology and techniques such as soil preparation or cultivation, irrigation, special cultural practices such as chemical treatments of fertilizers and pesticides, and the use of bigger and more efficient machinery.

Yet with all this, it is still estimated that as many as 10,000 people die every day throughout the world from starvation or malnutrition.

"Agricultural activities must not get so far removed from food production that they lose their appreciation of the problems in producing an adequate supply of wholesome food," Uglow reminded.

At the same time, the farm industry will not forget the environmental problem and will continue to consider any potentially injurious effects that crop and livestock production practices might have upon the environment.

This is already being done, Beideman concluded, by a number of nationwide monitoring programs directed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and many other university, institutional and government agencies.



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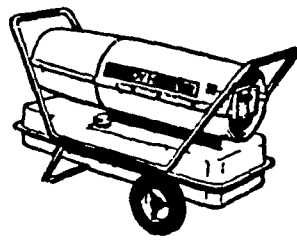
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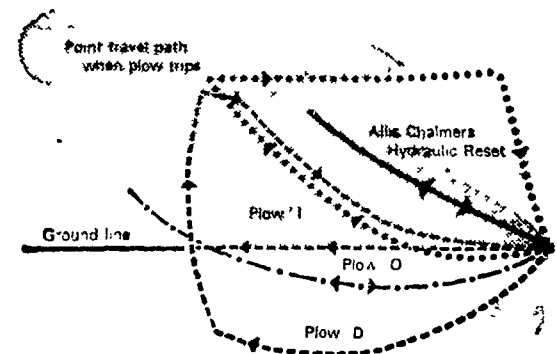
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