

Role of Pesticides

(Continued from Page 18)

the original problem I, for one, would much rather have DDT in my environment than the Gypsy Moth, which this year deloliated 110,000 acres of trees in my home state, compared to 1,000 acres in 1968. And in the tropical countries of the world, I can guarantee they much prefer DDT to the anopheles mosquito and its burden of malaria organisms. My Company does not produce the persistent, chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, but we do make competing products and expect to gain from the banning of DDT, dieldrin, aldrin, etcetera.

Yet, as an informed and concerned private citizen, I must warn that we are moving far too rapidly in the direction of restricting the use of these products before we have developed others to take their place. If the missionary zeal of the pseudo ecologists succeeds in motivating governments to further widespread restrictions on pesticides the result will be ruinous — reduced food production and increased famine and disease. And, of course the food that is available will be of lower quality at a higher cost.

If we can be a little patient, we will solve most of our environmental problems in the area of pesticides. We began years ago with relatively simple rather crude chemicals effective, long lasting toxic to a wide variety of life forms. The new chemicals, some of which are now on the market, some of which are still in the laboratory bear about the same relationship to early pesticides that a Boeing 747 bears to the Wright Brother's first airplane.

We are now working on products which control a narrower spectrum of pests. The ideal pesticide is one which destroys only the target insect and not the natural predators. An example is a product Cyanamid is developing called Abate, which at prescribed dosages is specific to the mosquito larva. Properly applied to the water in which the larva lives, it kills the larva, the target pest, and then breaks down without harm to plant or fish life in the body of water.

There will be other products of this nature. However they are inherently more expensive than most of the pesticides on the market today. Since the market will be narrower, the cost of development must be applied over a much lower total production. Lower levels of production also increase costs.

The short effective life means that they must be applied more frequently. A high degree of specificity means that the target pest must be accurately identified by an expert in order to select the proper chemical.

I believe many of us are willing to pay these increased costs.

Yet, we must be realistic. Just because I have said today that eventually we will develop many highly specific pesticides does not mean that you should leave this room and seek an immediate ban of the broad-spectrum pesticides currently in use. As I have tried to point out, such action will lead to disaster.

We can get some immediate improvement without enduring the long, tortuous process of developing a new chemical, proving its safety and effectiveness, and getting it on the market. You can start this improvement as soon as you return to your home counties. You are well aware of our industry's program to get users to "Stop—Read the Label." Misuse of agricultural chemicals is one of our greatest problems today.

SEE THAT THE FARMER FOLLOWS THE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS!

These are sophisticated

chemicals, some of them highly toxic. The instructions and information on that label have been developed through careful research by our scientists and pains — taking reviewed by dedicated, capable scientists in government to insure optimum effectiveness with maximum safety.

This is a continuing effort on the part of the agricultural chemicals industry as well as government officials; getting the user to read — and heed — the label is an effort which will never end. I know that you are already a part of it. When you return home, I urge you to re-dedicate yourself to it.

Offer your expertise to the news media who want to do a story on agricultural chemicals. Offer your guidance and counsel to local government agencies concerned with the non-agricultural use of pesticides. Talk to the local garden club, Audubon Society, or other conservation group.

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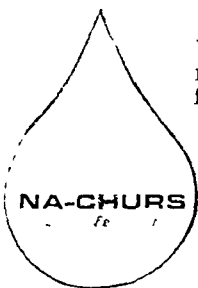
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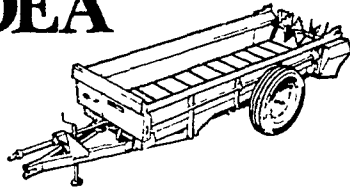


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