

# Environmental Priorities Are Upset, Speaker Warns

"In the United States this deaths from asprin alone, but combined" the Department of Plant In-  
 year, there will be about 1,500 only 200 from all pesticides J K Leasure, chairman of dusty at Southern Illinois Uni-

versity, Carbondale, Ill., told delegates to the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) meeting in Dallas, Texas, in February that such examples illustrate that priorities in the "movement for a better environment" are upset

Leasure warned that the fine balance between needed food production methods and measure to "clean up" the environment may be tipped if further studies are not done.

The new ecology movement is not based entirely on solid facts, Leasure told the group

The WSSA is mainly concerned with agricultural chemicals — their use, misuse and legislation against their use Leasure asked that WSSA members be ready and willing to tell the facts when the occasion arises

"To protect agriculture, we'd better start turning out our own agro-activists," he suggested

Leasure used Illinois to illustrate the need for more facts by pointing out that the Illinois Environmental Protection Act of 1970 puts the burden of proof of non-pollution on the accused.

He said it is necessary to answer such questions as "How much are we polluting the air when we spray?" and "How much of our spray actually stays in the target area?"

However, he warned "In addition to finding answers to questions about whether or not agricultural practices really do contribute to air and water pollution, we must squarely face the fact that some of our practices do pollute And we must look for ways to solve these problems"

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