

Weed Society Official Warns Of Need to Retain Chemicals

"No biologically active chemical exists that will not harm some organism at some level or manner of exposure," Dr. Dayton L. Klingman, incoming president of the Weed Science Society of America, told the membership at their meeting recently.

"Even essential food substances, such as vitamin A, and common medicines, such as aspirin, can cause birth abnormalities when fed at the high levels in some standard tests," the Agricultural Research Service scientist said. He urged that "both realistic and safe evaluation methods be adopted for chemicals used in food production."

Klingman pointed out that most herbicide chemicals are not toxic to animals and man, are relatively short-lived in soils and plants, are not magnified in food chains and do not accumulate in the environment. "But," he said, "a misinformed public could 'kill the goose that lays the golden egg' through irrational restriction of agricultural technology which permits one farmer to raise enough food to support 46 other people in the U.S."

According to Klingman, agriculture is the only essential business.

Penn-Mar Shropshire Club Seeks 4-Inch Loin

Housewives will be finding bigger, meatier lamb chops in the markets within the next few years if the current project of the Penn-Mar Shropshire Breeders' Club proves successful.

Club members believe that the four square inch loin eye in lamb chops is a definite possibility and efforts toward genetic selection for the bigger lamb chops have been initiated with the publication of the Club's "Loin-Eye Improvement Kit".

By using the "Loin-Eye Kit", Shropshire Breeders will be able to determine which of their flock sires is producing the best carcasses. According to geneticists, loin-eye improvement is highly heritable. Dramatic improvement in meatier carcasses will occur within a few years, if rams and replacement ewes are selected for this purpose, it was indicated.

The old method of eye-ball judging of live animals has done little to actually improve the meat characteristics of the carcass, it was noted.

The Penn-Mar Shropshire Club is sponsoring a Loin-Eye Contest for its members. Loin-eye tracings will be exhibited during the Pennsylvania Livestock Exhibition in Harrisburg in November, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the Club's meeting held during the Exhibition.

The Loin-Eye Improvement Kit is available to any Shropshire Breeder for a small fee. Address inquiries to Mrs. Warr G. Manhennet, Club Secretary, Cochranville RD1, Pennsylvania 19330.

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All other activities are possible only to the extent that food and fiber are produced in excess of the producer's needs. Cultural and technological advances and high living standards directly parallel the success of agriculture. And if agricultural technology—and food production—is to continue, the benefits and risks of any chemical must be kept in perspective.

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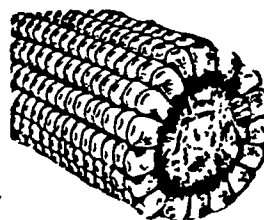
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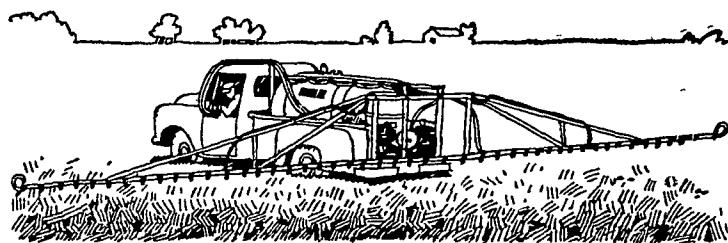
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