

## Firm Develops Insecticide Bag

Pesticides packaged in plastic bags that dissolve rapidly in water will be marketed this season by FMC Corporation's Niagara Chemical Division.

Niagara Chemical has developed the plastic bags for use with wettable powder insecticides that are mixed with water and applied by spray equipment.

Their introduction — believed to be a first in the agricultural chemicals field — will allow applicators to add sealed insecticide packages to sprayer mixing tanks and eliminate direct user exposure to the material. The bags begin to dissolve seconds after immersion and quickly release the product into the water.

Initially, one-pound water-soluble bags will be used by the company, a major producer of pesticides, to package its broad spectrum insecticide, Thiodan R, for sale nationally to agricultural markets. Limited quantities will

be available in these bags during the first phase of the program.

For the applicator, the new bags offer a way to fill his spray tank without coming into contact with the insecticide, getting dust on his hands or, possibly, inhaling powdery material. And, since each bag is consumed during application, there is no need for him to bury or otherwise dispose of contaminated containers. The water-soluble bags are being supplied five in a protective overwrap and six overwraps in a 30-pound carton.

For the pesticide industry the development suggests a practical way of easing one of the environmental concerns it faces — pollution build-ups from accidents or misuse of emptied, contaminated packages. The dis-

solvable bags provide a means of disposal that minimizes both hygienic and pollution risks.

Several years of laboratory and field testing have shown that the dissolved vinyl bag film has no effect on the biological activity of the insecticide and does not clog nozzles, according to Niagara.

The bags can be used with both high- or low-pressure sprayers and will dissolve in tanks operating with either mechanical or by-pass agitation.

Packed in their protective overwraps until use, the bags have exhibited good storage stability even under high humidity conditions. Preliminary tests with other pesticides such as Furadan R wettable powder have also been promising.

## Federal Share

A substantial increase in the U.S. Government's share of State-Federal indemnity paid to owners of swine destroyed because of hog cholera was reported recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in amended regulations scheduled for publication in the Federal Register, August 14.

The amended regulations, prepared by animal health officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, provide for a graduated State-Federal indemnity ratio through the final stages of the Cooperative State-Federal Hog Cholera Eradication Program.

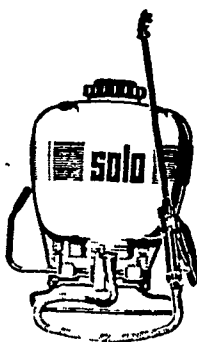
For five States still in Phase III — the active "stamping out" phase — the 50-50 ratio by State and Federal Governments will be continued.

In the currently 22 Phase IV States — where the disease is not known to exist — Federal share of indemnity is being increased to 75 per cent; and in 23 Hog Cholera-Free States — including Pennsylvania where the disease is considered eradicated — the Federal share is being increased to 90 per cent of indemnity necessary to meet infection introduced from outside.

ARS officials indicate, once the disease is eliminated in a State, the Federal responsibility to prevent reinfection justifiably increases.

The adjustment in indemnity ratios was prompted by strong progress in the nationwide effort to wipe out hog cholera as well as by recommendations of various advisory and industrial groups.

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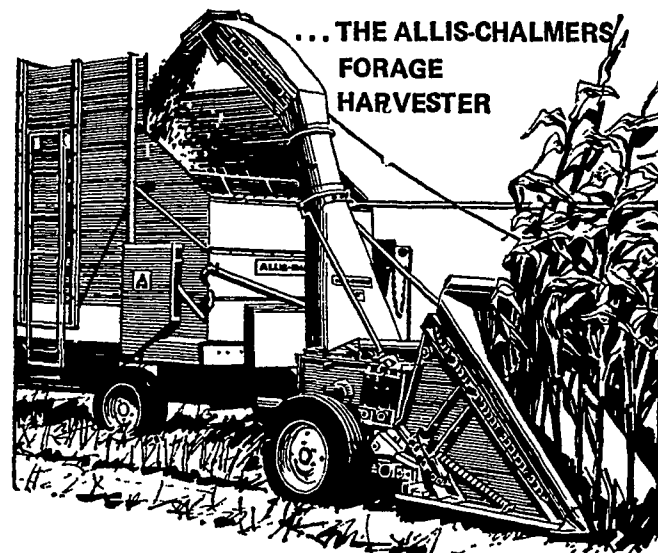
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