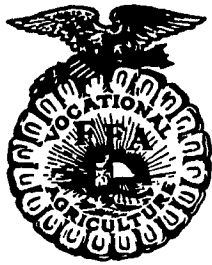


## From Local Ag Teachers:



# Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was prepared by James W. Hilton, teacher of agriculture at Penn Manor High School. A previous article prepared by Hilton appeared in the March 18 issue of Lancaster Farming.

### Pesticides:

#### Use Them Safely

Pesticides have for many years been the helpmate of man, allowing him to control "pests" which have hindered his advancement.

The term pesticide (meaning pest-killer) is applied to a variety

of chemical compounds used to control all kinds of pests. It includes insecticides used against harmful insects, herbicides which kill weeds, nematocides for control of microscopic worms called nematodes, fungicides which control plant diseases and rodenticides for doing away with rats and other rodents.

The use of chemical pesticides has done a great deal of good in the past 30 years. Together with other improved agriculture methods, modern pesticides have helped to increase farm



James W. Hilton  
Penn Manor High School

production. They have helped produce, protect and improve the quality of our food. For all consumers they have helped to keep food costs down and quality high.

Pesticides have come into wide use by farmers, agriculture

related businesses and consumers to insure the quality of our food supplies and the comfort of our lives. Nevertheless, chemical pesticides are poisons. That is why they are effective for the use for which they are intended.

Like many modern chemicals, drugs and machines, pesticides are dangerous only when carelessly or improperly applied. Pesticides, like many other things intended for a good purpose, may be dangerous to human as well as other life. Electricity, for example, can kill, but properly used and controlled is a valuable servant, likewise a pesticide properly used and controlled is a valuable servant.

What are the safety rules governing the use of pesticides? They are common sense rules which we all know but may think little about. The following are 15 rules for using pesticides safely:

1. Use a pesticide only when needed.
2. Always read the entire label on every package of pesticide each time you use it.
3. Follow instructions exactly.
4. Use only the prescribed amount.
5. Spray only the desired area.
6. Protect yourself by wearing protective clothing.
7. Mix and dilute sprays outdoors, or where there is adequate ventilation.
8. Avoid inhaling fumes, mists or dusts.
9. Don't smoke while handling

pesticides (some are flammable).

10. Never spray or dust out-of-doors on windy days.

11. Cover all bird baths, dog and cat dishes, and fish pools before spraying or dusting.

12. If you accidentally spill pesticides on yourself or others, stop immediately, remove contaminated clothing and wash exposed skin.

13. Wash hands and face after handling pesticides.

14. Store pesticides safely (under lock and key out of the reach of children).

15. Dispose of pesticides and containers safely.

Pesticides are weapons that science has developed to help you protect your plants, your food, and your health. Industry and government have spent millions of dollars and man-hours to test them to assure their safety and effectiveness. But these efforts will be of little value to you if you fail to read the labels and do not handle these weapons with respect. In the end you and you alone are responsible for the safe and proper use of pesticides.

### Beef Under Biscuits

For a speedy yet satisfying dinner, turn two cans of beef stew into a casserole and stir in a package of cooked frozen or drained canned vegetables. Top with biscuits from a refrigerator package and bake in a hot oven (425°F) 15 to 20 minutes, or until biscuits are done.

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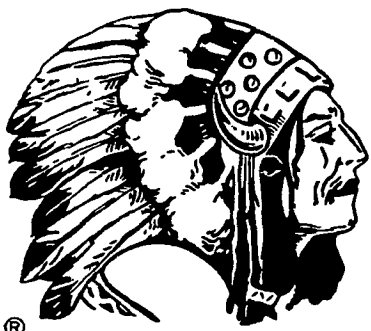
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