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**Hazards Detailed
 Stored Pesticide**

If you store a quantity of pesticides on the farm, you should be aware of the potential fire and explosion danger, says William T. Cox, agricultural engineer, Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Cox said three principal hazards are created by pesticides when exposed to high temperatures: explosions, fires, and poisonings. With National Fire Prevention Week, now underway, Mr. Cox issued a reminder to people handling pesticides on farms that:

— dust explosions can occur where pesticides in powdered form become dispersed in air.

— vapor explosions are possible when a flammable powder pesticide is mixed with a combustible solvent and sprayed in atomized form in fogging machines, and especially heated guns.

— cylinder and drum explosions can be caused by a high temperature rise which might occur during a fire.

A fire or explosion spreads

poison gases and liquids throughout the area. The active ingredients in stored pesticides in dust, wettable powder, granules, or emulsified liquids, often runs over 50 percent.

"The two most common types of pesticides are the chlorinated hydrocarbons and the phosphates," says Mr. Cox. The chlorinated hydrocarbons basically attack the central nervous system. They include DDT, lindane, dieldrin, aldrin, endrin, chlordane, isodrin, kelthane, thiodan, and toxaphene.

The organic phosphates are considered more hazardous because they affect the enzymatic systems of humans. They include such compounds as parathion, methyl parathion, demeton (systox), HEPT (hexaethyl tetraphosphate),

TEPP (tetraethyl phosphate), thimet, EPN, OMPA, ethion, malathion, diazinon, guthion, Coral, phorate, and phosdrin.

If you are storing any large quantity of pesticides on the farm, Mr. Cox recommends that, "you inform the nearest fire department of the types and amounts and locations of the pesticides so firemen can be prepared to fight any pesticide fire properly with minimum risk to themselves and to other persons, livestock, and wildlife."

In recent years, many firemen have been injured while fighting fires involving agricultural chemicals as a result of contact with toxic gases, vapors, and powders encountered from stored pesticides which they did not know where present at the site, he said.

**Crop Service Reports
 End to Growing Season**

Widespread frost during the early part of last week curtailed the growing season for most crops and vegetables the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service said this week. A hard freeze hit northern and western counties prematurely killing late planted corn. Tomato growers rushed to pick the last of their crop when first frost warnings were issued. Apple and grape harvest continues in full swing. Picking and shelling of corn is taking over as ensilage harvest is rapidly coming to a close. Other activities included potato digging, green chopping and repairing "Agnes" damaged fields and farm buildings.

Topsoil moisture supplies continue to improve, with 80 percent of the reporters indicating adequate supplies, compared with 60 percent last week. The remainder reported short supplies.

Picking and shelling of corn is gaining momentum across the Commonwealth, however, progress is behind last year. About 15 percent of the crop has been cribbed or stored as high

moisture grain compared with 30 percent at this same date last year.

Ensilage harvest passed the three-fourths mark, rapidly drawing to a close. Many farmers needed additional acreage to fill silos.

Potato harvest was expected to wind-up by this week. Hard frost in northern sections may cause complications later during storage. Yields varied, however production was generally below average. Good set and quality was reported in most sections, offsetting smaller size.

Barley seeding is winding up and winter wheat is three-fourths finished, about the same as last year. Improved working conditions enabled farmers to catch up after a slow start. Germination of earlier seeded fields has been good, although growth has been slow.

Pasture condition was reported average by two-thirds with most of the remainder below average. Hay growth has been mostly utilized for green feed because farmers are finding it difficult to cure hay at this late date.

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