

"Project Safeguard" to Aid Shift to DDT Substitutes

"Project Safeguard," designed to help farmers in 14 southern States—especially those on small acreages—safely use chemical alternatives to DDT this year, was announced jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The new pesticide safety program grows out of the EPA order last June finally cancelling most uses of DDT after

December 31, 1972. The effective date of the ban was delayed to permit an orderly transition to substitute pesticides, including joint development of "Project Safeguard" by the USDA and the EPA.

"Project Safeguard" is expected to help over 170,000 farmers control pests with greater safety on small acreages of cotton, soybeans, and peanuts during 1973. The EPA cancellation make illegal the use of DDT on these crops. About 12 million pounds of DDT was applied in the United States in 1970, most of it on cotton.

The 14 states involved in the educational program are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell and EPA Assistant Administrator David D. Dominick said the Federal Government will work closely with the State Extension Services and other State agencies concerned with agriculture, public health, and environmental

protection in carrying out the special project. Private groups, including the pesticide industry, also will assist with the program.

The chemicals most likely to replace DDT—such as the organic phosphorus compounds—degrade rapidly and do not accumulate in the environment over a long period of time. However, they are more hazardous to the user and other persons if not handled and applied properly. The greatest potential danger from some of the more toxic alternatives is poisoning through skin absorption as a result of accidental spillage of the liquid concentrate.

"Project Safeguard" will attempt to enlist the help of local farm leaders who will be trained as safety aides. These aides will then make face-to-face contact with their farm neighbors and offer advice on the safe use of any unfamiliar substitute pesticides which may be required during the 1973 growing season.

The cooperation and assistance of medical and hospital personnel, pesticide dealers, and chemical formulators and applicators also will be sought for the program. All aspects of the

project will be supported by extensive use of appropriate mass media—such as newspaper, radio, and direct mailing—to convey safe use information to the farmer.

The EPA is transferring \$750,000 to USDA to be used by the State Cooperative Extension Services to help support "Project Safeguard." State Extension Service funds will provide an additional \$350,000 for the project which will educate farmers not reached by conventional educational methods. Both agencies will make available additional funds for education and training phases of the project as needed.

As further support for this special project on the use of DDT alternatives, State Extension Services will continue to conduct general pesticides education through regular Extension programs with farmers, formulators, applicators, and dealer groups, as well as through mass media.

New pest management techniques are currently under study in various areas of the country. These integrated control programs combine the use of

biological and other alternate tools. In most cases, such programs will not be ready for practical application to pest problems during the 1973 growing season.

USDA Ends Two Export Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently the termination of the export payment program for chickens and lard.

This chicken program, which was originally started in September 1965, was designed to enable U.S. exporters of chicken to compete with subsidized exports of chicken from foreign suppliers—primarily the European Community and Denmark—in specified markets abroad. In recent years payments have been made for exports to Switzerland and Greece to enable U.S. exporters to regain their traditional shares of the imports into these countries.

Under this program, payments have been made for exports to these markets on a weekly offer-and-acceptance basis.

At the same time, the department announced termination of the export payment program for lard exported to the United Kingdom.

This program which was announced on Dec. 10, 1968, was designed to enable U.S. exporters of lard to compete in the U.K. market with subsidized lard from the European Community. Since Aug. 11, 1969, payments of 1 cent per pound have been made on exports of lard from the United States to the United Kingdom.

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Tuesday, February 6, 1973

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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