

DES Checks to Continue

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week that it will keep checking for residues of the synthetic growth promotant, diethylstilbestrol (DES), as long as use of the newly banned drug remains a possibility.

The announcement came in response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) action to ban DES implants in livestock. Producers have been using the implant to increase weight gain of animals. FDA earlier banned the addition of DES to animal feed as of January 1, 1973, after review of DES research data.

In commenting on the action, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz reiterated his comments at the time DES was banned as a feed additive, and pointed out that while he understood the necessity for the FDA action because of the requirements of the Delaney Amendment, the action will result in increased food costs to the consumer and involves a product which has been used for more efficient food production for twenty years with no known instance of harm to humans.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

said that cattle legally given DES implants will be coming to slaughter during the next few months.

During this period and for some time beyond, USDA meat inspectors will continue to sample animals at the 'current rate—approximately 6,000 samples yearly. The samples will be sent to USDA laboratories for testing using gas chromatography, the most advanced procedure now available for laboratory examination of samples from slaughtered animals. This method can detect DES residues in amounts as small as 0.5 parts per billion in an animal's tissue. As in the past, any positive result will be reported to FDA for appropriate action.

If the continued monitoring program shows that there is good compliance with FDA's ban on DES, USDA will reduce the number of DES analyses and direct more attention to other residue problems.

The experiments necessary to determine whether DES implants leave any residues in the tissues of cattle were begun in July 1972, by scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at Beltsville, Md., in cooperation with researchers at the ARS Radiation and Metabolism Laboratory, Fargo, N.D.

Experiments were conducted under feedlot conditions with normal implanting procedures and with the use of radioactive 14-C labeled implants. Radioactive implants were used so that the movement of DES could be traced.

The ARS studies, using sophisticated analyses, show that a minute trace of radioactivity appears in the livers and kidneys of treated animals as long as 120 days after implantation. This minute quantity is not detectable by gas-liquid chromatography testing procedures.

The trace of radioactivity that was found has not been categorically identified as being associated with the DES molecule. However, there is reason to believe that some of it is DES.

While the exact economic impact of the banning of DES

Pomona Grange Confers Fifth Degree

Lancaster County Pomona Grange 71 held its spring meeting April 28 at Fulton Grange Hall. The Master, Jesse Wood, presided at the business session.

The Grange went on record in opposition to Pennsylvania permitting the use of double trailer trucks on our highways. They opposed on the grounds that they would increase the danger of accidents due to cars, trucks and other vehicles weaving in and out of traffic in order to pass them and also the additional length would be more hazardous on

slippery highways. If double trailers would be permitted on Pennsylvania highways truck traffic on interstate highways would increase overburdening our present truck-crowded highways which would necessitate more highways being built, taking money from our other roads which are in deplorable condition. Additional trucks would increase pollution and would further destroy our railroad system which has been and still is necessary to our national economy.

The fifth degree was conferred upon nine candidates at Saturday night's meeting. Thomas Galbreath, Deputy State Grange Master of Lancaster County, presented a certificate from the Pennsylvania State Grange to Jesse Cutler in recognition of his being selected "Granger Of The Year" for 1972 in Lancaster County.

A member of the youth committee will be selected to attend the Pennsylvania State Grange Leadership School at Gettysburg College June 26, 27 and 28.

Mr. and Mrs. William Sheppard and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chambers of Chester County gave brief remarks.

Mrs. Charles McSparran

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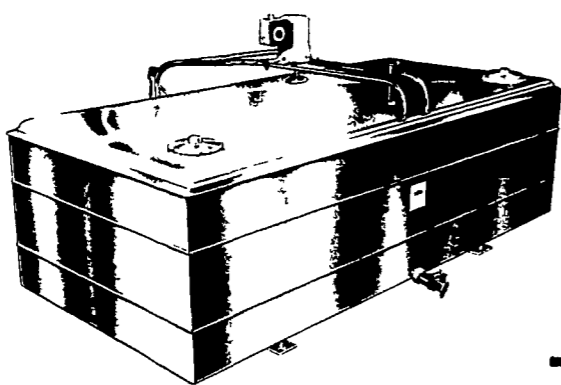
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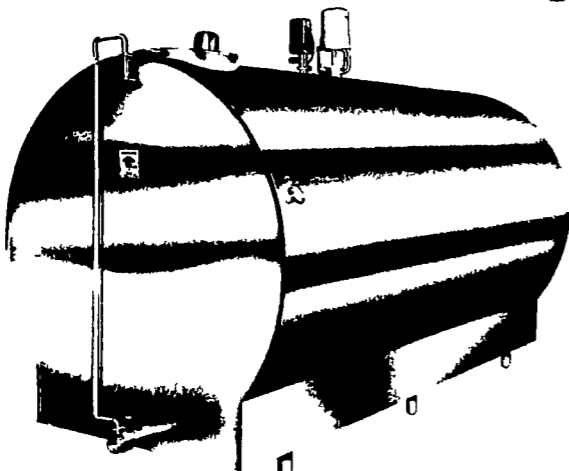
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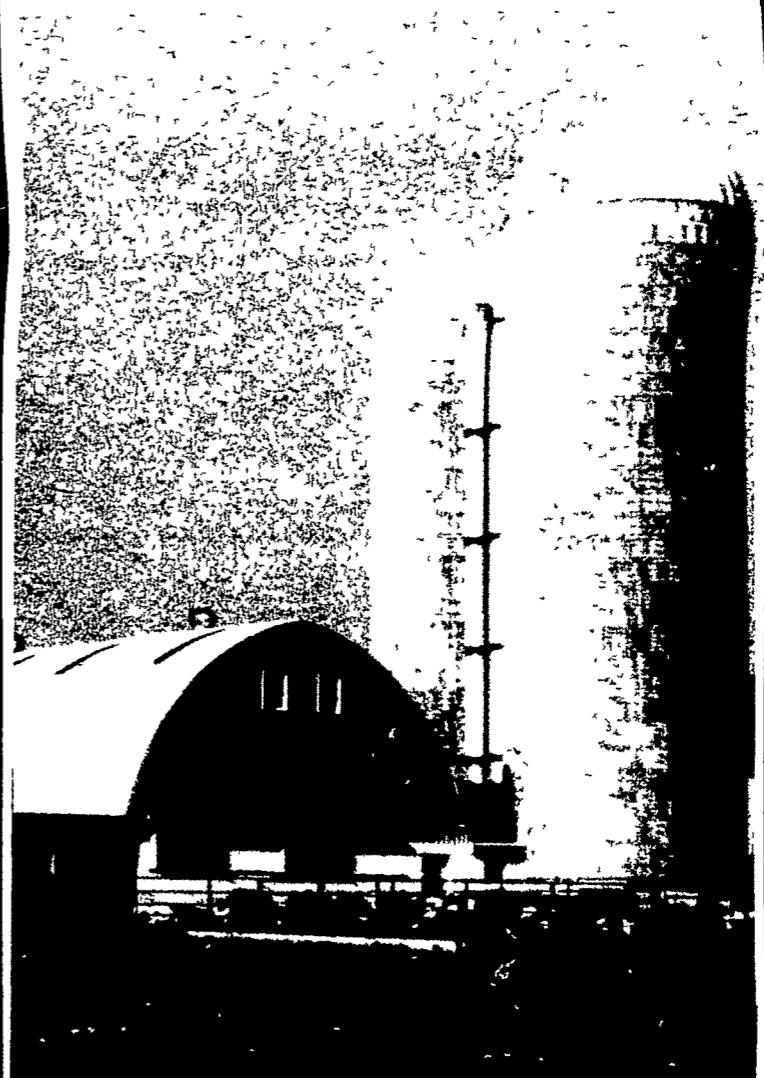


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