

Pesticide Law

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all, so I think it's in your own best interests to get one."

Nixon pointed out that the state's program isn't official yet, but they've done just about all the preliminary work. The biggest hurdle yet to face is getting approval for the program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Nixon said he doesn't really anticipate any problems there.

Under the Pennsylvania program, chemicals would be classified according to their toxicity and residual properties with respect to animals and the environment. General use pesticides would have no restrictions except for those on the label. Restricted use materials could be bought and used only by certified applicators. There would be two basic kinds of certification, private and commercial.

So, according to Nixon, the farmer could operate without certification - a license, in other words - if he used only general use pesticides. But he would need a license for restricted materials.

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"We've tried to make it as easy as possible for anyone to get a license to use restricted materials," Nixon said. "We've developed a correspondence course with Penn State. It will be available sometime in June, I hope, and it will cost about \$6. The course explains pesticide use. After reading the course, you simply fill out an examination in your own home and mail it in to Penn State. If you pass, and practically all of you will, you'll be certified for restricted pesticides. It's as simple as that."

According to Nixon, the course has been tried out on several groups of farmers throughout the state, and of the farmers who have taken the course, some 95 percent have passed the test.

Farmers without licenses will not be able to purchase restricted pesticides from dealers, but they will be able to buy general use materials. Nixon added that restricted materials may also be sold by dealers to the wives, children and hired hands as long as they take the license with them to the store. This provision was made so that farmers busy with field work wouldn't have to leave their chores to run into town for spray materials.

Under the state's proposed setup, farmers would have to pay no fee for their private applicator's license, which would be good for three years. The license could be automatically renewed at the end of that time if the farmer demonstrated that he had undergone some sort of update training since he had

first received his license.

That training, Nixon said, could consist of attending one county agent meeting having to do with pesticides, or attending a training session offered by a private company.

In addition to Nixon, the Crops and Soils Day audience heard from Dr. W. Wayne Hinish, Penn State extension agronomist, John Yocum, superintendent of Penn State's S.E. Field Research Lab at Landisville, and Dr. Willis McClellan, and Dr. Joe McGahan, both Penn State extension agronomists. The meeting was organized by Lancaster County associate agent Arnold Lueck.

Hinish talked to the group about the proper use of commercial fertilizers, lime, manure and soil testing. "When we're talking about 30-cent nitrogen," Hinish said, "we've got to know exactly what we have in the fields and we've got to know exactly what to use to correct any deficiencies.

That's why you should get your soil tested, and why you should know exactly what kind of soil you're working with."

One of the big factors holding down yields in the area, Hinish feels, is a "rented-land-syndrome". Farmers who grow crops on rented land are afraid to spend any money on lime because the effects of lime are spread out over three years. "But if you have a field with a pH of 5.0 or thereabouts, you can't afford to grow corn. And if you do grow corn, you can't afford not to use lime. At a pH of 5.0, nitrogen efficiency is cut to 53-percent, which means you're just throwing away half the money you're spending on fertilizer. Lime is still a lot cheaper than fertilizer."

Yocum briefly discussed new developments in alfalfa, soybeans and tobacco. McClellan and McGahan talked about weed control and maximizing corn returns for 1975.

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