

House approves \$47.8 million for pesticide control programs

WASHINGTON - The House Agriculture Committee has approved by a 37 to 3 vote a bill (H.R. 8841) jointly introduced by Chairman Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., and Rep. William C. Wampler, R-Va., ranking minority member authorizing the appropriation of \$47,868,000 for use by Environmental Protection Agency in administering pesticide control programs during the year beginning October 1.

Approval of the legislation, which amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), came after the Committee approved various amendments incorporated into a provision sponsored by Vice Chairman W. R. Poage, D-Tex., and Wampler.

As approved, the bill requires the EPA to obtain and publish the views of the Secretary of Agriculture and of a scientific panel before taking new pesticide control actions or issuing regulations.

One amendment which was adopted provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall prohibit the entry into the United States

of meats and other food products from countries which allow the use of pesticides banned in this country until and unless each lot of such imported meats and products has been inspected and found to contain no toxicant residues in excess of that allowed by this government.

The measure requires that the EPA Administrator, in determining whether to begin proceedings to cancel the registration of a pesticide, or the change its classification, shall take into consideration among other factors the impact of such action of production and prices of agricultural commodities, retail food prices, and on the agricultural economy in general.

The Committee bill also carries several new provisions which would permit farmers to self certify their qualifications to apply restricted use pesticides, to exempt certain animal feed and animal drugs from regulations by EPA, and to give notice to the Committees on Agriculture of the House and the Senate when EPA proposes new regulations.

"I hope it will be possible to schedule this bill for early action on the House Floor," said Chairman Foley after the Committee vote.

Early enactment of the bill is necessitated by virtue of the fact that current funding of pesticide control programs is being done under a three-month interim authorization which expires September 30.

During hearings by the Committee it became evident that proposed changes in the pesticide regulations would make it difficult, if not impossible, to get legislation enacted by June 30, when the then existing authorization was due to expire. Consequently,

the three-month extension was agreed upon with the hope that some decisions on proposed changes might be reached in the interim.

FOOD BASKET

BEETSME

Over half the sugar produced in the United States comes from beets—a relatively new crop. Cane was the world's only sugar source until an 18th century German scientist proved identical sugar could be produced from beets. The crop was grown chiefly in Europe until U.S. plant breeders developed a disease-resistant variety that could be grown here

Area farmers visit corn research center

DEKALB, ILL. - C. Henry Breneman of Strasburg, Jerry Roman of Ephrata, Earl W. Rohrer of Smoketown, Ivan Bauman of Lancaster, Pa. & Robert Stoltzfus, Cochranville, viewed the world's largest corn research and testing program last week at DEKALB AgResearch, Inc., a northern Illinois based seed company.

These men were among more than 4,000 individuals who attended a convention honoring DEKALB Dealers from throughout the United States.

"We're proud to have dealers like these marketing for us," says Tom Roberts, Jr., president of DEKALB. "It's individuals like this

who are the backbone of the seed business."

"DEKALB Dealers provide their neighbors not only the most productive seed, but also sound advice concerning farming techniques and cultural practices. This year our dealers will have more seed to market than ever before, so we want them to become experts in seed technology for their area, Roberts says."

While in DeKalb, they toured the company's corn research farm, foundation seed production locations and the upcoming site for the Farm Progress Show - one of the most popular displays of agricultural technology in the United States.

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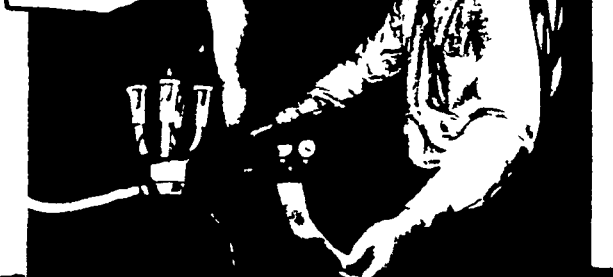
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