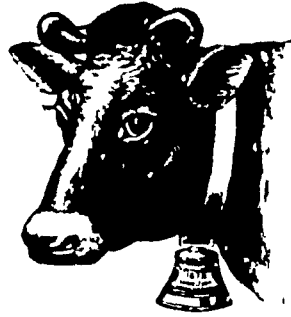


THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

JAN. 5-11, 1976

Dig a rift in that big drift

Take down Christmas decorations now. Gail Borden (invented condensed milk) died Jan. 11, 1874. Raccoons are sparking now. First quarter of the moon Jan. 9. Average length of days for the week 9 hours 13 minutes. First vessel through the Panama Canal Jan. 7, 1914. First shot fired in Civil War Jan. 9, 1860. Propriety governs the superior man. Late the interior man.



Old Farmer's Riddle. What word does everyone pronounce wrong? (Answer below)

Ask the Old Farmer. Will you tell me the meaning and origin of hunky-dory?

It's an American colloquialism meaning all's well, but there's more to it than that. An old definition of hunky is safe. Dory is taken from the Greek meaning spear, which could mean all's well and safe guarded as it were.

Home Hints. Drooping feather pillows look and feel like new if they are tumbled in an automatic dryer. **Riddle answer.** Wrong.

OLD FARMER'S WEATHER FORECASTS

New England. January thaw, with moderate to heavy rain in central and south, snow in north throughout week.

Greater New York-New Jersey: Early week cloudy and warmer with some rain, then partly clear, latter part unseasonably warm, light rain.

Middle Atlantic Coastal. Sunny and warm before rain at midweek, warm and scattered showers end of week.

Piedmont & Southeast Coastal. Warmer with light rain to start, locally heavy at times and thunderstorms in west, rain continues latter part then unseasonably warm by week's end.

Florida. First part of week mostly sunny and warm with a few showers, light rain in northwest above-normal temperatures in north and scattered showers latter part.

Upstate N.Y.-Toronto & Montreal: Week begins rainy and windy, some moderately heavy snow in north and mountains, rest of week mild light rain.

Greater Ohio Valley. Warmer with rain, locally heavy along Ohio River, to start, end of week partly sunny mild and light rain.

Deep South: Week begins with rain thunderstorms and possible tornadoes, then cold and sunny, rain again latter part, then clearing and very warm by week's end.

Chicago & Southern Great Lakes. Intermittent heavy rain, sometimes mixed with snow, in central and south all week, snow in north at first, then sunny and mild.

Northern Great Lakes: Generally cold with scattered snow throughout week, except sunny and mild in east and south latter part.

Central Great Plains. Clear and cold in northwest, light snow in west and rain and snow in east early week, then sunny and mild, week ends with rain in south and east.

Texas-Oklahoma: Week begins cold and stormy, with rain in central and south, blizzard in north, sunny and warm latter part, showery over weekend.

Rocky Mountain: Clearing in south, warmer in north by midweek, with some snow and rain, light to moderate snow and cooler latter part.



GREETINGS 1976

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Chemicals too regimented

CHICAGO — In a debate before a national meeting of agricultural editors, a spokesman of the agricultural chemical industry attacked the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of current pesticide regulation as overly regimented, intrusive, and seriously threatening the nation's ability to produce food efficiently. EPA officials at the meeting contended that new guidelines recently issued by EPA Administrator Russell E. Train counter the mounting criticism of the agency's approach to pesticide regulation and decision-making.

The debate was sponsored by Stauffer Chemical Company and opened the winter meeting of the American Agricultural Editors Association held here last month.

Participating in the event were H. L. Straube, Chairman of the Board, National Agricultural Chemicals Association; Dr. Jay Turim, Deputy Director, Office of Regulatory and Policy Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Kenneth C. Walker, Assistant to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Samuel R. Aldrich, Assistant Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois; and John J. Neylan III, Chairman, Chemical Pesticide Misuse Review

Committee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Declaring that a large body of the agricultural community is deeply disturbed about EPA's administration of the Federal Pesticide Regulation Act, known as FIFRA, Straube said, "The pesticide industry, for example, fully supported the amended FIFRA since it became law in 1972 and was placed under the administration of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"What we do not support, however, is EPA's administration of FIFRA since passage of that legislation. Let me put it to you bluntly: EPA has mismanaged the administration of FIFRA. Over-regulation has become overkill; and all of us — consumers, farmers, and the pesticide industry have suffered for it.

"This mismanagement is exemplified by the following points: First, the most fundamental philosophy written into the 1972 FIFRA act was the requirement that EPA consider both benefits and risks of a pesticide in determining registration or cancellation of pesticide registration. The agency has not done this; they've only been evaluating the risk and ignoring the benefits. If there was risk in any degree, EPA has denied registration of new products or cancelled some products already in use.

In the current chlordane-heptachlor hearings, it has been stated that approximately 20 insecticides account for 91 percent of farm applications. EPA has banned three of those 20, and is now attacking two more. Knock out a few more key insecticides, and you'll also knock out the American farmer's ability to produce food at the rate we now depend upon.

"Lastly, let me remind you of the EPA's establishment of the pesticide 'hotline,' which set up a toll-free number in Washington to receive reports of pesticide misuse or accidents. In setting up this hotline, the agency stated it was necessary because, misuse of pesticides annually injures hundreds of thousands of farm workers and hundreds of these workers die. This, of course, is sheer nonsense, and the EPA ultimately withdrew the hotline after being challenged to substantiate these assertions."

Straube indicated that as a result of industry criticism and now Congressional reaction, EPA has instituted some drastic changes in administrative guidelines. These concern the Agency's interpretation of what constitutes carcinogenicity which will now, for the first time, draw on scientific consultation outside of the EPA.

"Mr. Train also now wants external scientific experts to review EPA's data and analyses and to have increased personal contact with parties likely to be affected by any decision he is going to make, particularly the farming community," Straube stated.

But, pointing to past performance of EPA, Mr. Straube called upon the agricultural editors in his audience "to rededicate yourselves to fully informing the American farmer on these issues" and to make sure EPA now follows through on its proclaimed reforms.

In discussing some of the changes in the pesticide regulatory Act, EPA's John J. Neylan stated, "We felt the need for a mechanism to inform the chemical industry, the pest control industry, and the general public of the enforcement policies of the Agency." To accomplish this the Agency instituted a series of policy statements designed to increase the predictability of enforcement actions, establish enforcement precedent, among other factors. These will also serve to provide public notice of instances in which deviations from pesticide label directions will not subject the user to enforcement liability, Mr. Neylan explained.

Southwest Desert: Cold snap with severe frost, light snow in east to start, then clearing and mild end of week rain, fairly heavy in west, light in east and generally cooler.
Pacific Northwest: Early week rain mixed with snow, then warming, light rain latter part, then sunny and cold by week's end.
California: Early week clear, cold and frosty, then rain in north by midweek, latter part rainy, snow in mountains, then clearing and cold.

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