

New pesticide safety procedure detailed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Strict human health and environmental protection procedures from pesticide abuse have recently been enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency through a safety review process for all pesticides used in the United States.

A key part of this safety program is a procedure called "Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration" or simply "RPAR."

"RPAR means that if a pesticide shows potentially dangerous characteristics, as determined by EPA, it is subjected to a detailed

scientific review including public comment before a decision is made to allow its continued use or removal from the marketplace," says Dr. Winand K. Hock, Extension pesticides specialist at Penn State University.

He points out that during the RPAR review process, information about the risks and benefits of the pesticide is gathered by EPA.

The risk criteria that can trigger a rebuttable presumption against registration of a pesticide include suspected tumor formation, gene mutation, reduction in sperm production, a hazard to bees, earthworms, aquatic

organisms, and lack of an emergency first-aid treatment.

"If the pesticide meets one or more of these risk criteria, the RPAR process begins," Dr. Hock emphasizes. "The process may last up to 180 days or even longer in some cases."

At the end of this period, EPA may propose continued use of the pesticide, certain restrictions, or cancellation of some or all uses of the chemical.

"Pesticides that are given a clean 'bill-of-health' following a RPAR review and used according to the instructions on the product label should not create human health or environmental hazards," Hock adds.

One such pesticide now under RPAR procedures is "Benlate" benomyl fungicide.

Those who use Benlate and wish to respond to RPAR should include: 1. the name of the specific crops or diseases controlled by Benlate; 2. the effect on crop yields of quality if no fungicide is used (in tons or bushels per acre, etc.); 3. availability, comparative

effectiveness and cost of alternative fungicides; 4. Effects that loss of Benlate could have on ability to grow crop; 5. Would growers or farm laborers be put out of work? How many? 6. How much might consumer prices for the crop be affected?

Mail individual responses to: Federal Register Section, Technical Services Division (Wh-569), Room 401 East Tower, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460.

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Cumberland County dairymen cited for high producing herds

CARLISLE — Several Cumberland County dairymen were honored by Atlantic Breeders Cooperative last month for having high production records with Atlantic progeny. The dairymen had to have at least two-thirds of their herd sired by ABC bulls in order to qualify for the distinction.

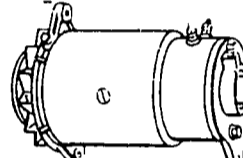
Those who received the Certificates of Merit and their respective herd averages are as follows: Paul Strock, Mechanicsburg, 115 cows, 18,267 pounds of milk and 676 pounds of butterfat; Clifford Chamberlin, Shippensburg, 29 cows, 16,370 milk, 659 fat; John Lippert, Carlisle, 31 cows, 16,897 milk, 644 fat; Herbert Shughart, Newville, 27 cows, 16,965 milk, 619 fat; and David Miller, Shippensburg, 69 cows, 16,023 milk, 564 fat.

All herds were at least 15

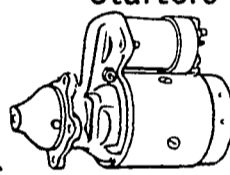
per cent above the state average for milk or butterfat production last year.

Several ABC members in Cumberland County were also cited for their assistance in using young sires this past year.

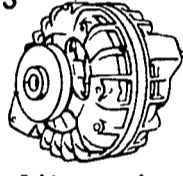
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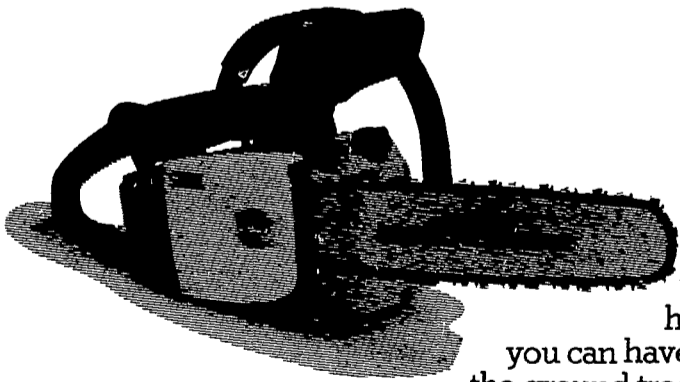
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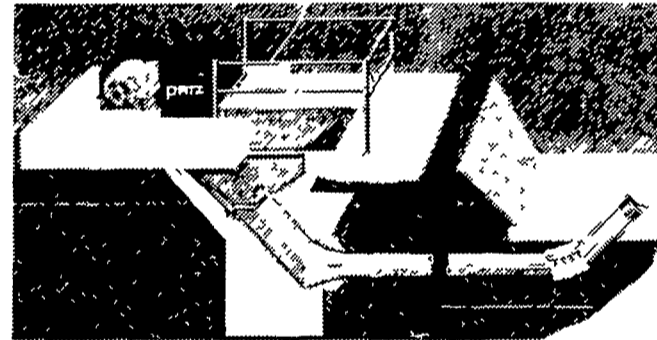
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