

556,902 farms enrolled in wheat and feed grain program

Pesticides can be a confusing issue

NEWARK, Del. — There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding as to just what a pesticide is. The federal law regulating pesticides says — among other things — that a pesticide prevents, destroys, repels or mitigates any pest, and that the term includes plant regulators, defolants and desiccants. A "pest" is defined as being — among other things — any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or other form of life declared to be a pest by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

These definitions cover a lot of territory, points out University of Delaware Extension specialist in agricultural chemicals, John McDaniel. He quotes one EPA official as saying the law is broad enough to include even beneficial insects under the term pesticide. (For those of you not familiar with the concept, beneficial insects are those used as a biological control to keep harmful insects at numbers so low the latter can't cause serious injury or economic loss.) This same EPA individual doubts that his agency would ever actually exercise its regulatory powers in this particular area. But the fact that they could gives you an idea of just how elastic the legal definition of pesticides can be, points out McDaniel.

Clearly, according to law, weed killers, insecticides, fungicides, harvest aids and even sanitizers are pesticides, and as such fall under federal control. The widely used household product trade-named Comet, for instance, is registered with the EPA because it is,

and claims to be, a disinfectant. Look and you'll find the EPA registration number on the label of each can. If the manufacturer of this product made no claim that it has sanitizing qualities, no registration would be needed.

This opens up an interesting gray area in the issue of pesticide control — labeling.

Obviously, no one would buy a weed killer, if the label didn't tell the purchaser how to apply the material. So, to assist and encourage use, the manufacturer has to make statements which put the product under the broad legal term "pesticide." All pesticides aren't weed killers. But all weed killers which claim to kill weeds are pesticides.

But what about those products which don't claim to have pesticidal powers, and yet are sometimes used for that purpose? Many commonly available materials possess such pesticidal qualities, points out McDaniel.

Table salt, used motor oil, and black plastic mulch all have been used to kill or prevent weeds. Many gardeners use old newspapers as mulch, and one function of any mulch is to prevent weed growth. Boric acid is a valuable tool in cockroach control under certain conditions. Ticks are sometimes picked from pets and dropped into a few ounces of kerosene stored in something like a small frozen orange juice can. And houseplant pests are sometimes killed by being touched with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol.

So far the EPA hasn't made any decisions about the use of these and similar products as pesticides. This is largely because packagers of these materials give no instructions for such use.

People simply learn that these products may work in providing relief from pests. Of course, if one of these materials fails to provide the expected relief, you, the user, have no recourse. Since no claim was laid to potential benefit from such use, you can't sue the manufacturer.

All of which just goes to show how complicated this whole matter of pesticides can be. For the present, the term pesticide covers products which claim some sort of activity against pests. But it doesn't seem to cover all the products which may be used to reduce pest problems. It's no wonder the subject is so confusing.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During the ninth week of the 1979 wheat and feed grain program signup 106,502 farms enrolled. Of the 2,837,929 farms eligible for the program, 556,902 (23.3 per cent) had signed up through April 19.

Signed up farmers intend to set-aside or otherwise divert 13,688,325 acres of cropland, according to Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Stabilization and Conservation Service. Fitzgerald said farmers have indicated they intend to set-aside 7,233,793 acres under the wheat program and 3,576,506 acres under the feed grain program.

Feed grain producers will divert an additional 1,927,235 acres of corn cropland and 415,945 acres of grain sorghum acreage. Under the special wheat acreage grazing and hay program, producers have signed up 535,260 acres.

Wheat and feed grain acreage planted for harvest on the participating farms

totals 68,376,193 acres, including 36,166,893 acres of wheat, 21,872,892 acres of corn, 6,780,652 acres of grain sorghum and 3,555,756 acres of barley.

The participating farms have 109,303,521 acres of the 280,150,604 total normal crop acreage (NCA) established on farms.

Participation in the set-aside program is voluntary. Only participants are eligible for price support loans, disaster payments or deficiency (target price) payments, however. Final figures will be available after farmers have "certified" their acreage later in the year.

PUBLIC SALE

OF 150 HEAD OF LIVESTOCK

Located ¼ mile east of Emmitsburg, Md. off Route 15 on Route 97.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 18, 1979

AT 6:30 P.M.

150 HEAD OF LIVESTOCK 150

120 head of Holstein heifers, consisting of 25 fresh or close springers, 1st and 2nd calf; 25 Holstein heifers bred to freshen in July, August, and September; 70 open Holstein heifers from 300 lbs. to breeding age; 5 Black and B/W.F. heifers, approx. 350 to 500 lbs.; 7 Black and B/W.F. steers, 8 Hereford, and 3 Char. steers approx. 350 to 600 lbs.; 10 Holstein steers approx. 300 to 500 lbs. (Most small heifers are vaccinated.)

This is a nice group of cattle with good quality, all wormed and dehorned. Bangs and T.B. tested within 30 days of sale. Pregnancy examined by vet.

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Clerk:

C. L. Metz

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6:00 P.M. SHARP

Located at Colonial Valley, in the village of Menges Mills, Penna., 10 miles West of York, PA, and 6 miles East of Hanover, Penna., off Route 116.

Some of the items to be sold are:

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Lots of horse drawn machinery.

All kinds of harness, saddles, milk wagon, sleigh, 2 horse wagon, fifth wheel wagon, poles, shafts, single trees, double trees, 1½ horse Fairbanks gas engine, etc.

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SATURDAY, MAY 19

10 A.M.

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Player Piano (latter Humana - Newark, N.J.), 6 ft. Side Board, Lincoln Rocking Chair, Oak Bedroom Set with High Back Bed, Washstand (wash-bone towel rack), Bureau (Bevel Mirror), Poplar Bedroom Set with High back bed, washstand (washbone towel rack and Bureau (Bevel Mirror), Blanket Chest (with key), Iron Bed (twin), Clock (Wm. L. Gilbert Co.), Old wooden slat Crib, Rope Bed, Feather Tick, Quilts, Blankets, Picture Frames, Tables, Kettles, Chair (Commode), Desk (made from organ), Sq. Oak Table (2 leaves), Plank Chairs, Comb Box, Wicker Chair, wash boards, Baskets, Cream separator, Waffle iron (old iron long handled), Butter Tub, Butter Churn, Table — 4 chairs, Mirrors, Living Room Set, Rugs, Camel back trunk, Ice Tea Cooler, Metal Cabinet, Screen Doors, Aluminum Swing with Mattress, Maytag Washer, Humidifier.

Tools, Brooder Stones, Pig Box, Sleigh, 2 Metal Barn Gates, Lawnmower, Harnesses, 220 Air-Conditioner, 3 Cu. Ft. Philco 2 door freezer, Case Silo Blower, Milk Cans, (wooden) Wheelbarrow, Feed Cart, Burlap bags, Bag Box (wooden), Milk Pails, Strainer, Metal Wash Tubs, Wooden Pulleys, Lumber, Bag truck, Grind Stone, (Clinton), Chain-Saw, Thermometer, Cooler, Platform Scale, Case tractor (350), Case 3 Bottom Plow, Sickle Bar (Case), Bale Wagon, 14 ft. Wagon Body, Manure Spreader (New Idea Wood Body), Corn Sheller, Elevator (24 ft. New Idea), Spring tooth Harrow, Stalk Shredder (New Idea), 6 ft. Mower (Woods). MANY ITEMS TO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

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11 head registered and vaccinated out of Franklin Co. dispersal; 40 head out of Bradford Co. dispersals, milk records on dams to 19,000M, vaccinated; balance out of Chester and Lancaster Co. dispersals, mostly vaccinated. 1 Red & White Holstein, navel shots.

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