

Agrispon vows fight to finish to get a product label

BY CURT HARLER
HARRISBURG — The president of SnCorp, manufacturer of Agrispon, has promised to fight all the way to the Supreme Court in an effort to get the product labeled in Pennsylvania.

As reported last week in Lancaster Farming, the State Agriculture Department's decision to deny a label registration for Agrispon in Pennsylvania was upheld by a state hearing examiner.

This means that after 30 days the product can not legally be sold in the Commonwealth.

The Department said it could find no data to substantiate claims made by SnCorp for their product.

Agrispon makes two basic claims: that it enhances generation of soil nitrogen; and, that it is non-toxic. It also had a longer version of a proposed label which had 26 claims.

The Department's final order to stop sale of Agrispon in Pennsylvania gives SnCorp of Dallas, Texas; and local distributor J&J Agri-Products of

Dillsburg 30 days to stop the sale of the product.

But Roland Russell, 7616 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas, president of SnCorp said, "We never walk away from anything like this.

"This won't stop before it gets to the Supreme Court and a lot of heads will roll along the way," he predicted.

Russell said he had confidence in the American system. He said the American people would not allow one small group of people to stand in the way of a product's being put on the market.

"Anyone with an open and fair mind would recognize that this is a good product and a good company," he said.

Tests at Penn State said just the opposite about the product. In fact, the decision to deny Agrispon a label in Pennsylvania was based in large part on tests done at the University, as well as results from other states and testimony presented at a long series of hearings late in 1979.

"If it's as bad as Penn

State says it is why are they taking five months to fight it and all the expense of this action?" he asked.

He indicated a poor product would go broke under its own weight.

Russell again refused to reveal exactly what is in Agrispon.

Our label is all they need to know," he said. "They

don't have to know how we culture it."

SnCorp has hinted that they feel there is some sort of conspiracy to keep them off the market involving Penn State and the Agriculture Department.

Much of the money given the University for research projects comes from private industries often in competition with Agrispon.

Conservationist sponsor photo contest

COLLEGE PARK — The Old Line Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America is sponsoring a conservation photography contest.

Held annually, the contest is open to members and nonmembers. Eligible subject matter is the conservation and development of soil water, fish, and wildlife.

Entries should illustrate: 1. the need for conserving these resources; 2. methods used to overcome problems in their use; 3. outstanding

examples of proper resource use; or 4. benefits to society as a result of man's efforts to conserve and develop natural resources.

Winners of the chapter contest will be entered in the national competition.

The chapter is offering \$35 for first place and \$15 for second place in both the black and white and color categories.

For complete contest rules, contact Katherine C. Gugulis, 301-344-4180. The deadline for entering is May 25, 1980.

SnCorp had no proof to offer.

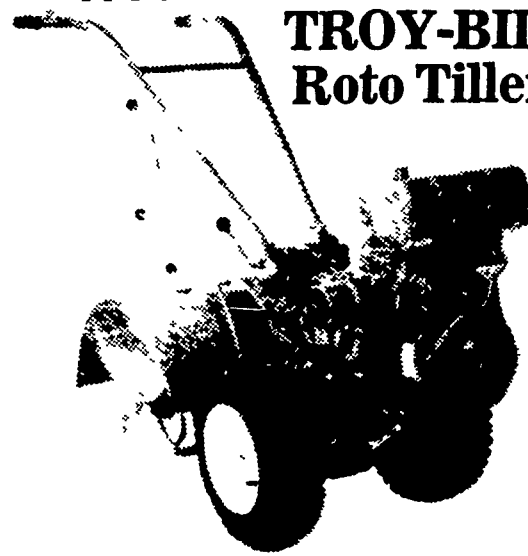
"If they were fair-minded and looking for alternative methods they'd let me spend my money on research and development instead of hearings," Russell said.

"I can't give Penn State money since our funds are tied up in the courts in Pennsylvania," he added.

SnCorp has until early May to file further legal action and obtain a temporary injunction against the Agriculture Department's stop-sale order.

To date, stop sale orders have been issued against 21 products under the provisions of the state Fertilizer, Soil Conditioner, and Plant Growth Substance Law of 1977.

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