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Sevin said safe to use as labeled

LITITZ — A controversy has arisen in Pennsylvania and adjoining states as to the safety of the insecticide carbaryl, which is sold under the trade name Sevin.

According to University of Delaware extension pesticides specialist John McDaniel, Sevin is widely used for control of gypsy moth larvae - those caterpillars which in great numbers sometimes denude oaks, pines and other trees.

Those on one side of the controversy have claimed that the insecticide causes birth defects in human

beings. Radio and television reports on the controversy appear to have added fuel to the fire.

Sevin has been under review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for several years, says McDaniel. This past May the EPA wrote a letter to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture in which it stated that the information available on the pesticide leads the agency to believe that Sevin does not present any imminent hazard.

EPA scientists have reviewed all the data derived from tests using Sevin. They believe, on the basis of this data, that the chance of Sevin causing birth defects in human beings is very low. There is more information on Sevin

and birth defects than there is for most other chemicals, notes the specialist, whether these chemicals are pesticides or not. And EPA has reviewed all of it.

EPA points out that one must never conclude that risks from exposure to any chemical are zero. The agency suggests that men and women of childbearing age should avoid unnecessary exposure to any chemical. McDaniel goes even further.

He feels that people of all ages should avoid unnecessary exposure to chemicals.

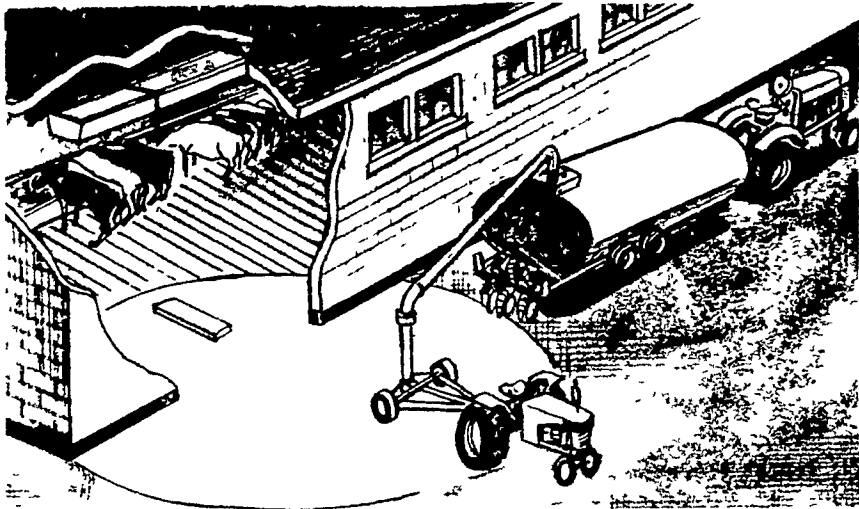
Proving a negative is almost impossible. A truck occasionally runs into a house, though doubtless the homeowner involved would have bet anything

before hand that such an accident would never happen.

A philosophical scientist once wrote an article pointing out that each of us is in danger of being hit by a watermelon falling from an airplane. The possibility may be there, but the chance is so remote that you're not likely to find anyone scanning the sky for falling melons.

So it is with certain other hazards. Tests are made. Results are evaluated and conclusions drawn as to reasonable risk. "The EPA is not noted for making mistakes on the side of hazard," concludes the specialist. "Those people usually decide well on the side of safety."

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SCS says not enough farms on conservation

HARRISBURG — Soil erosion is like dropping your contact lens down the bathroom drain. It is virtually impossible to retrieve and it is expensive to replace.

Last year, three billion tons of America's topsoil was lost—literally down the drain.

Every year, enough soil to fill a freight train from here to the moon and halfway back washes into streams and rivers robbing farmland of fertility and polluting our waterways.

The problem with soil erosion is that it is an insidious process," says a spokesperson, for the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. "Often you cannot

see it happening so you don't worry about it."

The effects of erosion can be seen in any stream after a hard rain. Muddy streams and their effect on the environment led Congress in 1972 to call for a national effort to stop nonpoint pollution.

Nonpoint pollutants are those contaminants contained in rainwater that runoff the land. Sources include just about any type of land use — agriculture, mining, construction, highways, and urban land. However, the largest single source of nonpoint pollution is sediment and 40 percent of it comes from cropland, according to SCS.

In Pennsylvania, about 60 percent of the sediment polluting waterways comes from farmland, 20 percent from urbanland, and the remainder being natural geologic erosion.

Erosion and sediment pollution affects everyone. It takes 100 to 500 years for an inch of soil to form.

It costs American taxpayers \$125 million a year to drain sediment from harbors and waterways.

Sediment in reservoirs

accounts for about \$100 million of lost capacity each year for hydropower, water supply, flood control, and recreation.

Although these figures have been around for years, the public generally has remained indifferent to the loss of valuable topsoil — they could substitute high energy inputs, such as fertilizers and other chemicals to make up difference in productivity while still making a profit.

While fuel costs skyrocketing and the reserve of farmland dwindling by as much as three million acres per year, that difference is no longer justifiable, nor is the public willing any longer to see water quality continue to decline, says SCS.

What can be done to reduce the loss of topsoil?

Farmers and landowners are practicing soil and water conservation in cooperation with local soil conservation districts and the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. About 40 per cent of Pennsylvania's farmland is operating under conservation plans, but that is not enough, concludes SCS.

Delaware Co. EFNEP personnel honored

MEDIA — Francelia Bradley, Rosetta Jones, Hilda C. McNear and Joan Shavers all from Delaware County's Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program were honored recently in Allentown with ten year service awards.

The occasion was a regional conference for EFNEP personnel working

in 59 Pennsylvania counties.

EFNEP, a program designed to help families with limited resources improve their diets through education and improved use of resources, has been part of the cooperative extension program since 1969.

Also attending the conference from Delaware County were: Ethel Carroll, Marva Hunt, Beatrice Pitts and Mildred Robinson.

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