

## EPA to consider requiring closed pesticide systems

NEWARK, Del. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering the desirability of requiring closed systems for mixing pesticides and rinsing their containers.

These systems, which are now required in California, remove the concentrated pesticide from the original container, rinse the empty container, and transfer the pesticide and rinse solution to a close mixing tank without exposing any person to the pesticide.

This is certainly a good idea, says Delaware extension agricultural

chemical specialist John McDaniel. With a closed mixing system, it should not be necessary to wear protective clothing when mixing pesticides, since a system which performs as intended prevents exposure.

But unfortunately, these systems haven't always performed as intended. Some have failed, often seriously exposing the operator to concentrated pesticide—the very problem the system was supposed to prevent.

The problem seems to be one of design, McDaniel explains

Closed systems use a probe to withdraw the concentrated pesticide from its container. Due to the variety of sizes and shapes of containers and of the designs of their closures, one probe will not fit all containers. So, the operator must buy probes of several sizes, as well as adapters and attachments to fit the various containers.

As a result, the system becomes cumbersome, costly, and often poorly fitting. Leaks occur, posing a distinct hazard to the operator.

The Environmental

Protection Agency has investigated the problem and has suggested that standardization of closures and container sizes might be the answer. Another answer might be to require that each container have a built-in probe. Built-in probes might eliminate the need for standardized containers.

Finding safe methods of handling hazardous concentrated pesticides is one of the many problems faced by the Environmental Protection Agency. The agency requests comments and information in these cases, then publishes rules

with further requests for comments on the proposal.

Notices, proposed rules and regulations are published in the Federal Register.

These comments are given serious consideration. The final rules often reflect valuable suggestions

gleaned from the comments. The process encourages public participation at several points, giving those with expertise the opportunity to be helpful. McDaniel notes that this is an improvement over earlier methods employed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Twin Valley FFA sweeps wildlife contest

LANCASTER — On Wednesday, November 5, members of the Twin Valley FFA competed in the Lancaster-Lebanon-Berks County Wildlife contest at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

This contest, held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, requires students to: 1) take a written test on wildlife management and laws, 2) evaluate a habitat for wildlife, 3) identify at least 10 wildlife signs, 4) identify ten Pennsylvania mammals, 5) identify ten Pennsylvania birds, 6) identify ten Pennsylvania fish, 7) identify ten Pennsylvania reptiles and amphibians, 8) identify ten wildlife foods, 9) identify ten bird calls and 10) identify ten bird or mammal tracks.

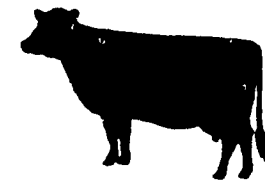
In Berks county competition, Twin Valley members swept the top nine positions, with three Twin Valley students finishing in

the top ten overall (from all three counties).

Capturing first place in the county was Wade Bernard, 16 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bernard of RD 2 Elverson. Eric Timm, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Timm of Birdsboro captured second.

Pam Trostle, 15 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Trostle of Green Hills was third.

In overall competition, Wade finished second, four points behind John Sweigart of Garden Spot, with Eric finishing fifth, and Pam eighth. In team competition, Twin Valley finished first, Northern Lebanon second, and Garden Spot third.



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