

Scientists to hold public hearing on nitrites

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Academy of Sciences will hold a public meeting on nitrites and alternative curing agents in Washington on January 22, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said Thursday.

Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service, said the meeting will be held in the National Academy of

Sciences' auditorium, 2100 C St., N.W., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The purpose of the meeting is to receive information from individuals and organizations on health risks and benefits of nitrites and nitrates and on the status of research on alternatives to nitrites," Houston said.

The meeting is part of a study of the nitrate issue by

the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council Committee. USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration asked the committee to study nitrites. "We anticipate the report on the health and risk benefits of nitrites will be issued in November of 1981 and the report on alternative curing agents in February of 1982," Houston said.

Nitrites are used in cured meat products to prevent botulism poisoning. However, the safety of nitrites has been the center of controversy since a 1978 report suggested it had carcinogenic effects in animals fed the preservative.

In August 1980, FDA and USDA determined there is insufficient evidence to support the researcher's report. Nevertheless, nitrites have not been given a clean bill of health.

Those wishing to make an oral presentation at the Jan. 22 meeting should contact, by December 15, Robert A. Matthews, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. Telephone. 202/389-6085. Written comments should be sent to the same address.

Notice of the January 22 meeting was published in the December 2 Federal Register, available in many public libraries.

Names pesticide manager

WAYNE, NJ — Cyanamid's Agriculture

Division has appointed Mr. Donald McAgon regional manager of the Pesticides Department's recently established Eastern region.

In his new position, he assumes responsibility for the sale of pesticide products in the eastern coastal states from Maine to Florida, including Pennsylvania and New York.

Since joining the company in 1975 as a pesticide sales representative, McAgon became market development supervisor in the Midwest region which led to his most recent position as district manager of the Omaha district.

McAgon received his BS in agronomy from Delaware College of Science and Agriculture in 1974. He served in the U.S. Army for two years in Military Assistance Command, where he was presented with the Army Commendation Award for Valor.

A native of Milford, New Jersey, he and his wife, Claire, reside in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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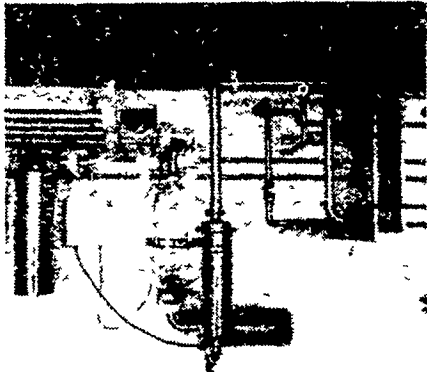
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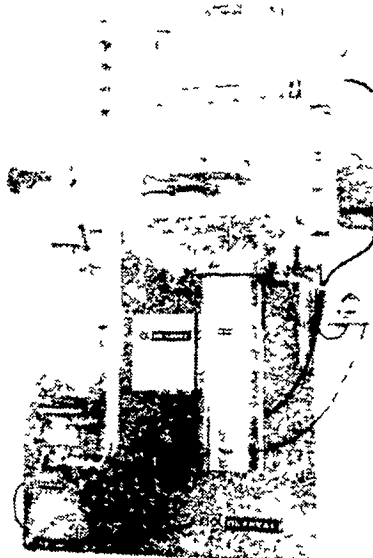
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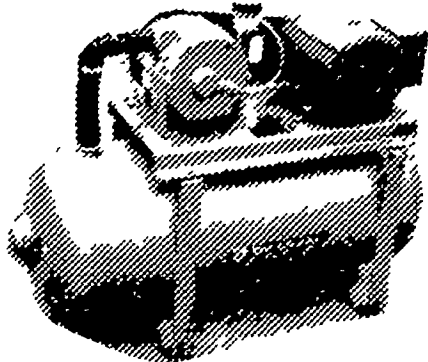
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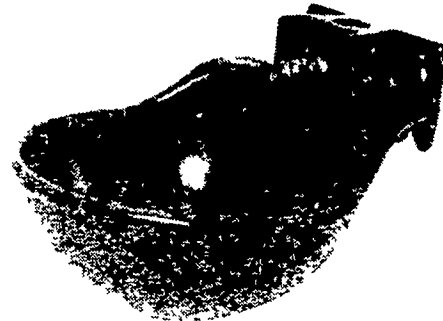


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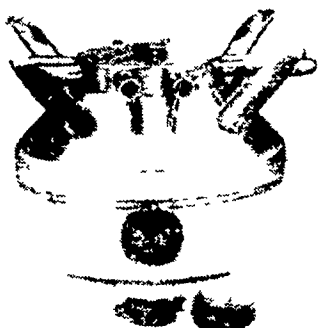
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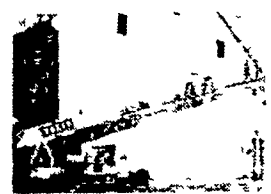
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