

Group asks scientific, not political, regulation

PHILADELPHIA — A top spokesman for the agricultural chemicals industry called on federal regulators to begin basing their pesticide policies on scientific rather than political judgments.

In a speech before the 35th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science

Society, Jack D. Early, President of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, said that the pesticide industry was not adverse to government regulation "as long as the regulators base their decisions on scientific principle instead of political expediency."

"Unfortunately," he added, "in the political setting of the recent past, we have found that the latter supersedes the former most often than not."

Early cited the recent recall of the proposed nitrite ban and the suspended use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T as examples of unscientific

handling by federal regulators of scientific matters. Public announcements of these bans on the slim thread of presumptive evidence, he noted, often create public crises when in fact none exist.

In addition, Early said such unscientific regulatory

actions have sparked a wave of anti-pesticide sentiment in many local areas and have helped influence a growing trend by some states to out-regulate federal pesticide law.

The NACA executive said that the industry was encouraged by Congress' recent decision to include provisions for peer review by independent scientists of scientific studies in the 1981 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Reauthorization Bill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency relies on these studies as the basis for their pesticide regulatory actions.

Early warned, however, the public should not expect more scientifically balanced pesticide standards unless Congress considers certain

modifications to FIFRA and is prepared to revise the Delaney Clause amendment to the 1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The Delaney Clause effectively bans any chemical compound or substance believed to have carcinogenic potential and has served as a major catalyst in regulatory decisions which have resulted in the impromptu suspending or banning of pesticides and other chemical products.

NACA is a Washington-based trade association representing the nation's agricultural chemical producers. Its 115 member companies manufacture or formulate virtually all the crop protection chemicals used in the United States and large percentage of those used worldwide.

Chemical firm pays fine in EPA information suit

CHICAGO, Ill. — A long-standing dispute between Velsicol Chemical Corporation and the U.S. Government was concluded today with the entry of a nominal fine of \$1000 in the U.S. District Court here. The government had sought a fine of \$1 million.

Velsicol is an operating company of Northwest Industries, Inc.

Velsicol agreed in May of 1980 to plead no contest to a charge that it resisted an effort by the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency to obtain certain information on the company's pesticides, chlordane and heptachlor.

The agreement was made in order to terminate protracted litigation and without the admission of wrongdoing on Velsicol's part. The agreement was subject to a judicial determination of the fine.

In announcing his decision, U.S. District Court Judge George N. Leighton said that the corporation, its executives and its attorneys were imposed upon by the

government through the EPA.

"The corporation should see in this decision that justice is finally done," Judge Leighton said. "It is impossible to calculate the vast sums of money spent on this case."

A Justice Department attorney told Judge Leighton that last Friday's decision marked the termination of the case.

"Today's judgement marks an historic turning point for Velsicol," said Wm

Howard Beasley III, who assumed the role of president and chief executive officer at Velsicol at the beginning of 1980.

Coupled with last year's dismissal of criminal charges on another matter dating back to the mid-1970s, Velsicol has made a giant leap from a beleaguered past to a more promising future.

Last year, a federal district court in Washington, D.C., dismissed a criminal indictment against the company and two employees on the basis of prosecutorial vindictiveness in a case that arose from the accidental mixing of a flame retardant, PBB, with animal feed in Michigan in 1973-74.

That was the second time that an indictment against Velsicol had been dismissed for prosecutorial misconduct. On April 20, 1979, Judge Leighton dismissed another indictment against Velsicol on the grounds that the prosecutor's conduct made "a mockery of the grand jury system."

The grand jury had indicted Velsicol in December 1977 for an alleged delay in submitting data to the EPA that today's court action resolved.

"This company is committed to environmental security," Beasley said.

Our actions in recent years have demonstrated this. With these major court decisions behind us, we can devote all of our efforts to improving Velsicol and assuring that our first priority of environmental security is obtained."

Delmarva to combine corn, soybean meetings

SALISBURY, Md. — The Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference is a combination of the two usually separate meetings this year.

The meeting, with Orion Samuelson as a featured speaker, will be held Wednesday, February 4 at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury. Exhibits, coffee and donuts will be available at 8:30 a.m. with the program getting underway at 9:30 a.m.

Orion Samuelson, host and producer of the nationally syndicated TV show "U.S. Farm Report", has been nationally recognized for the scope and high quality of his broadcast journalism in agriculture. Samuelson grew up on a 200-acre dairy farm in western Wisconsin,

assisting his father with the family dairy farm. His topic will be "U.S. Agriculture in the Eighties."

The days' topics will range from fertilizer and cultural practices to economics with a topic on troubleshooting.

The first topic of the day will be "Corn and Soybean Cultural Practices and Tillage Update." This will be addressed by Ron Ritter, University of Maryland, Frank Webb, University of Delaware, and Henry Wilson, Virginia Truck and Ornamental Research Station.

What you need to know when purchasing lime will be discussed by Roy Flannery, Rutgers University. Russ Walls, Southern States Cooperative will give those attending an economic update when he discusses the grain outlook for the Eastern Shore.

Fertility is next on the agenda with Allen Bandel, University of Maryland and Bill Mitchell, University of Delaware discussing efficient fertilizer use in corn production.

Soybean fertility programs for your farm will be the topic presented by George Hawkins, Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Corn and soybean trouble shooting will be the topic discussed by Ron Wade, Extension Agent, Dorchester County and Dave Woodward, Extension Agent, Kent County, Delaware.

Cotton Ivy will again serve as master of ceremonies and liven up the event with his humorous "country tales."

Lunch will be provided during the noon break. Get your luncheon ticket at local agribusinesses or the local cooperative extension service.

This meeting is sponsored by Delmarva's Agribusiness Industries and the Extension Service of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

Anyone interested in corn and soybean production is invited to attend.



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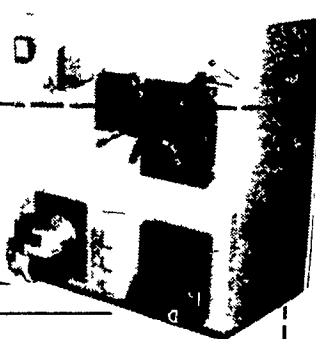
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