

TMI hearings cover food plan

HARRISBURG — Testimony was scheduled to be given this week by Leroy C. Corbin Jr., Chief of the Division of Food Control, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, in the continuing hearings being held concerning the restart of Three Mile Island's Unit 1.

Corbin's testimony was in response to the contention that the PDA's emergency plan has no provisions for criteria for the reactivation through normal restricted usage of previously contaminated property, equipment, foodstuffs and water supplies.

Corbin explained that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration criteria for reactivation through normal or restricted usage of previously contaminated foodstuffs is contained in Federal Register Vol. 43, No. 242, Dec. 15, 1978. The control and use of con-

taminated food and animal feeds will be based on laboratory analysis of samples using this FDA guidance, he said. The Agriculture Plan is Section VI (Commonwealth Disaster Operations Plan, ANNEX E, Appendix 7) provides the guidance for handling of foodstuff which will be the basis for advisory information to the public, according to Corbin.

Section 1705 of the Pennsylvania Administrative Code of 1929 authorizes the Department of Agriculture:

—To enforce the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the production, manufacture, transportation and sale of foods used for man, as well as every article entering into and intended for use as an ingredient in the preparation of foods for man;

—For the purpose of enforcing such laws, from time to time, to

purchase from wholesale or retail dealers samples of any food or drink, and have the same analyzed or examined, and prosecute the sale of adulterated, misbranded, or deleterious food or drink;

—For the purpose of enforcing such laws, to enter into any place where food is produced, manufactured, sold, or offered for sale, or kept, and to seize all articles of food produced, manufactured, sold, or offered for sale, or kept in violation of such laws.

Corbin further stated that the Region VI Office of the Department, located in Summerdale, is staffed with seven food inspectors and two milk sanitarians. The Department has reacted to past disaster situations, such as floods by temporarily relocating food inspectors from other Regions to

the disaster Region; this action would be utilized when deemed appropriate. The Department has 50 food inspectors and 22 milk sanitarians available for disaster recovery work. Further, the Department has utilized personnel

from other Bureaus for non-professional duties directly related to disaster recovery work.

The Department has work sharing agreements with DER and FDA for personnel and laboratory assistance.



Cost of farm accidents encourages safety

COCHRANVILLE — Sometimes it's easier to attract attention by appearing to the pocketbook rather than to common sense.

In keeping with this theory, farm accident studies are now being conducted in selected states to determine the real costs of farm-related accidents. According to extension farm safety specialist Ron Jester, once far-

mers learn the amount of money lost because of senseless accidents, they may try harder to prevent them.

Any farmer recognizes the value of good reliable employees, says Jester. Such help is indispensable at critical times during the year—such as planting, farrowing and harvest. The loss of employees at these times creates undesirable and costly situations.

The accident studies have shown that disabling accidents in Delaware in 1977 resulted in an average of 14 days lost from usual activities and an average medical expense per accident of almost \$600.

With the rapidly rising cost of medical, hospital and other expenses since 1977, a disabling accident today would cost approximately \$1000.

In addition, a Purdue University study of a corn and hog operation concluded that under certain conditions, the farmer's time was worth \$600 an hour during planting and no less than \$100 during the rest of the year.

Once the farmer realizes the high financial value attached to his time, Jester says, he should strive to keep his employees healthy and able-bodied so that he doesn't end up as one of their replacements.

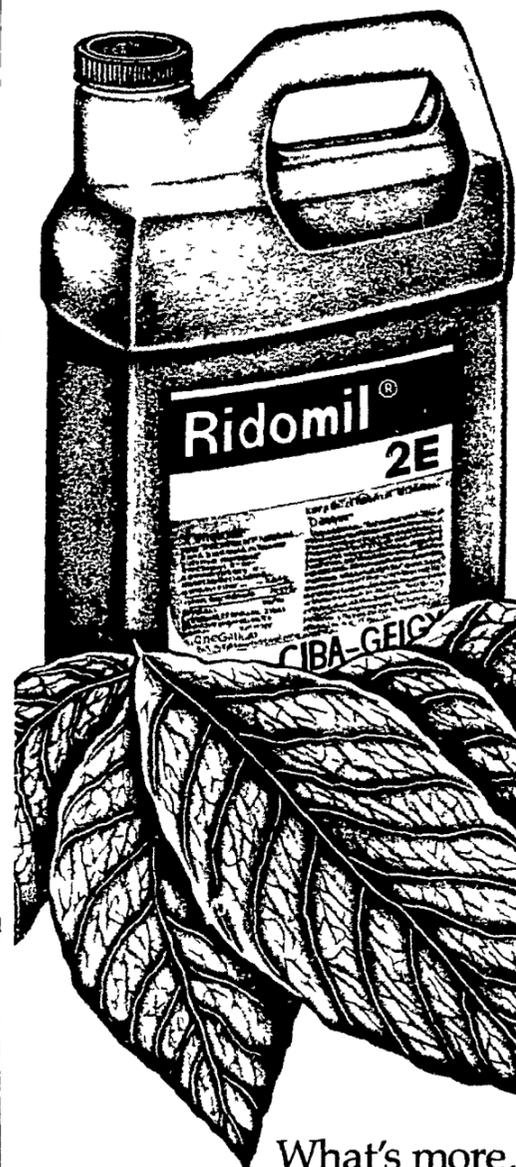
Who can measure in dollar and cents the value to any one of us of a hand, a foot, or an eye? It is more than good business to be free of injury and impairment. Just an unthinking moment, a careless move or an unguarded act may trigger action resulting in the loss of a finger or even more serious injury.

You alone can develop a safety state of mind that will protect you from injury. And there is no question about it, the rewards will amply repay you for the effort.

Emphasizing that a small investment in safety pays big dividends, Jester quotes an Iowa farmer who said, "I bought a roll-over bar for my son's tractor—they are cheaper than caskets."

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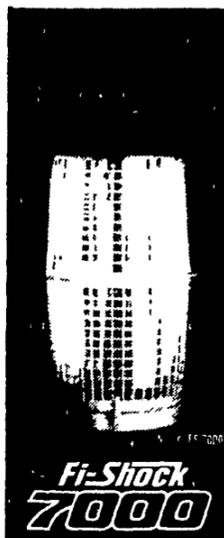
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