

Environmental quality remains a concern, Ag-Chem president says

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA. — The pesticide industry will be called on to do more to ensure public safety and health as a result of recent changes in the country's political and economic

climate, a top spokesman for the National Agricultural Chemicals Association said recently.

"The dominant political idea today is for less government and more controlled government expenditures," NACA President Jack D. Early said in an address before more than 800 attendees to the Association's 48th Annual Meeting.

"But there is every indication," he added, "that public expectations for protection from physical hazards in the air, water and food are not likely to diminish."

Recent national polls reinforce the public's belief that it is possible to maintain both a sound economy and environmental quality, Early noted. "If there's been a change at all, it is that consumers now demand environmental controls be cost-effective," he said.

The NACA executive told the

gathering that the public will depend more on the industry to preserve environmental quality as government seeks to reduce its regulatory role. Such a reduction at the federal level, he added, will also likely create a transfer of increased legislative and regulatory responsibilities to the states in the coming year.

Early emphasized the continuing need for the application of "sound science" to risk assessment decisions, including legislation which would create an "independent panel of scientific experts" to assess and advise regulatory agencies on the risks of pesticides and other chemicals.

NACA is a non-profit, Washington-based trade association whose 107 members make or formulate virtually all the pesticides used in the United States and a large percentage used abroad.

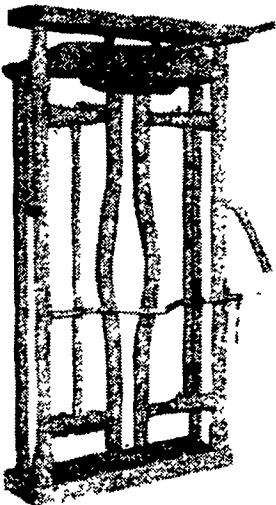
Egg production down

HARRISBURG — September 1981 egg production in Pennsylvania totaled 333 million, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The September production was two percent below the 339 million eggs produced in

September 1980. The September average of 15.9 million layers was two percent below a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,096 compared with 2,089 in September 1980.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.61 billion eggs during September, two percent less than the 5.72 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers on October 1, 1981 totaled 284 million compared with 292 million a year earlier. Egg production per 100 layers during the month was 1,986 compared with 1,990 a year ago.

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