

Farmers should explore Toxaphene alternatives

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Despite a 1982 federal order banning its manufacture for sale in the United States, toxaphene will still be available to Mid-Atlantic area farmers during 1983 for its traditional labeled uses as a cheap, effective pesticide to control surface insects in no-till corn and army worm in small grain fields.

The Environmental Protection Agency has further ruled that toxaphene may continue to be available for emergency use in no-till cornfields after 1986. But a University of Maryland Extension entomologist doubts that there will be any available through regular marketing channels after 1984.

J. Lee Hellman, Extension field crop insects specialist at the College Park campus, suggests that farmers start experimenting this year with alternatives to toxaphene—the last of the chlorinated hydrocarbons, which have now almost entirely been banned for general use. Predecessors on this list included DDT, chlordane and kepone.

Like its chemical cousins, toxaphene was the cheapest and most effective pesticide available for a particular purpose, and it had a long residual. But the residual effect caused it to be a hazard to

wildlife and the environment in general. There was also an accumulation of scientific data indicating that toxaphene might cause health problems for humans.

Adjusting to the alternatives available for toxaphene may prove to be a good thing for everyone in the long-run—farmers and environmentalists alike, Hellman noted.

Since the costs of some alternative pesticides are much higher (up to \$140 and \$160 per gallon), farmers will have to learn to apply the new materials much more sparingly than in the past. They should also consider participation in a field scouting program which will tell them when to spray—or if they really need to spray at all.

Good alternatives to toxaphene can be found in three broad groups of agrichemicals, Hellman said. These are the organophosphate and carbamate compounds—including malathion, Sevin and diazinon—and a whole new group of synthetic pyrethrins which are very safe for the user.

In addition to being only slightly toxic for humans, the new synthetic pyrethrins are very effective against a number of insect pests. Pound for pound, they are 8-10 times more effective than some of

the older insecticides, Hellman commented. And even more effective pyrethrins are on the way.

In preparation for the post-1983 era, Hellman recommends that farmers try some Pydrin or Lorsban to control cutworms in no-till corn. Application technique will be different, however, than it was for toxaphene.

For armyworm control in small grains, there is now whole list of alternative agrichemicals which may be used in the same way as toxaphene; i.e., application by

Delaware plans goat show

HARRINGTON, Del. — The Delaware Dairy Goat Association will hold a show Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, at the Delaware State Fairgrounds, at Harrington, De.

The show is open to the public. Anyone interested in showing should contact Debbie Vickers, show secretary, R1 Box 192, Laurel, De. 19956 or call (302) 875-2548 after 6 p.m. Deadline for entries is April 15.

aerial spraying.

After 1983, the only non-restricted allowable use for toxaphene applicable to Mid-Atlantic area farmers will be for controlling mange, a mite infestation on the skin of sheep and cattle. The only unrestricted crop

use will be for growers of pineapples and bananas.

Any emergency use in no-till cornfields after 1986 would require special authorization from state departments of agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

New ABS bull barn



This is the interior of the new 104-stall bull barn built by American Breeders Service at DeForest, Wisc. The 300-foot by 80-foot metal

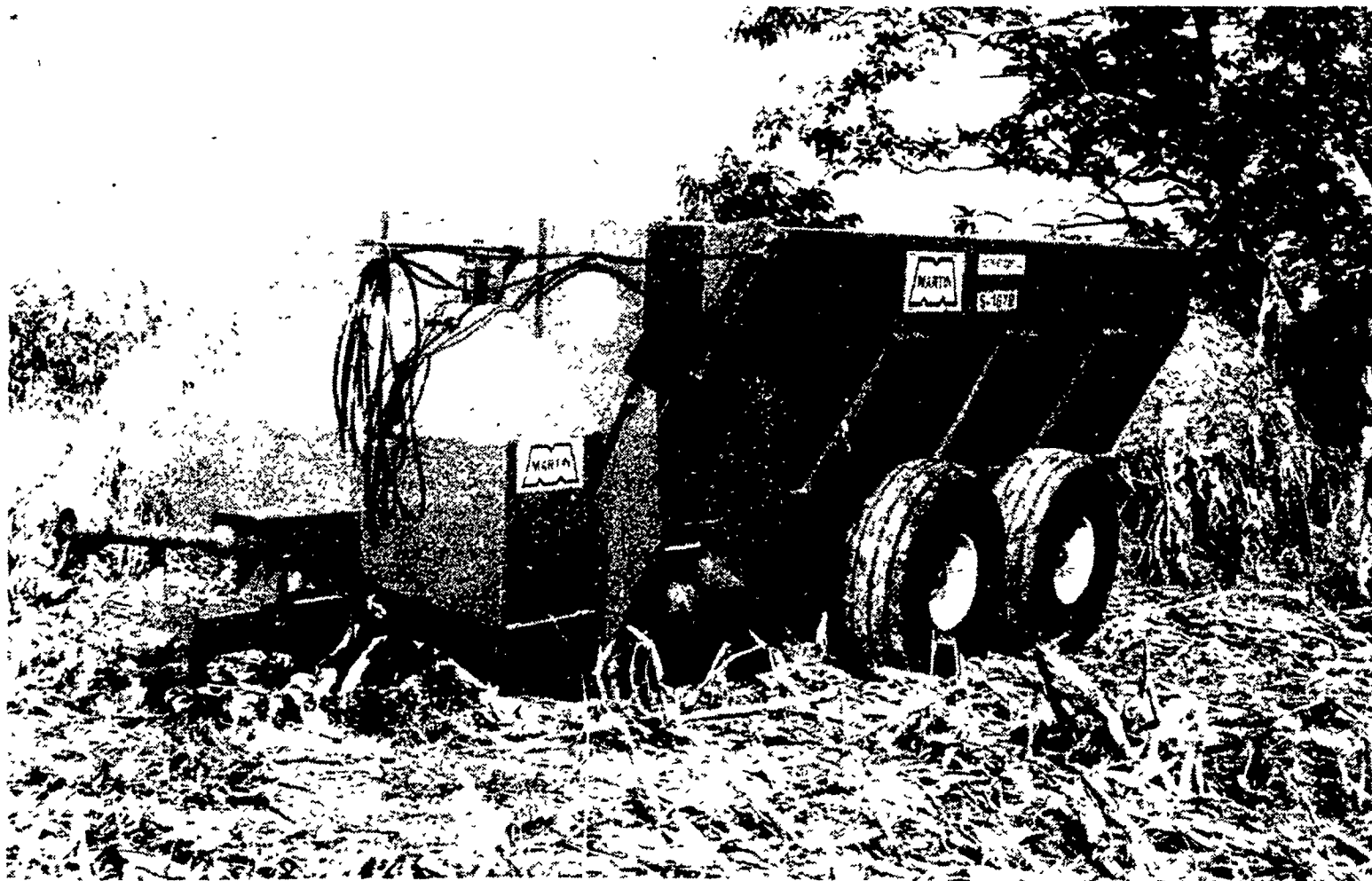
barn replaces a structure razed by fire 14 months ago in which 29 beef bulls were lost.

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