

Swine producers

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Pa. to enforce EDB guidelines

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania will enforce new guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for allowable levels of ethylene dibromide (EDB) in food products, according to state Agricultural Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Hallowell said that the state has begun enforcing the guidelines for residues of EDB, a chemical used as an industrial solvent and a pesticide.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is accepting the EPA guidelines for tolerance levels of EDB in grain and food products, and has begun enforcement action on these guidelines," Hallowell said. "We will take necessary actions to remove any products from sale where EDB levels are determined to exceed the federal guidelines."

"Our major concern is for the safety of Pennsylvania consumers. The Bureau of Foods and Chemistry has been testing samples of grain and fruit based products since January 31, and will continue monitoring through random sampling of these foods," he said. "Currently no Pennsylvania product on grocery store shelves exceed EPA guidelines."

In tests which have been com-

pleted, 35 of 114 food products showed any detectable level of EDB. "We have no evidence to suggest that any product grown or produced in the state using Pennsylvania products shows any EDB residues," Hallowell said.

"Results of a survey conducted by the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry shows extremely limited use of EDB in Pennsylvania in recent years," he noted. "The grain industry has not used this chemical as a fumigant for grain in 5-7 years, and its use as a soil fumigant has been restricted to no more than 100 acres in the entire state. We would expect very little or no economic impact from the EPA guidelines on Pennsylvania's farmers or agricultural economy."

Hallowell said that only nine of 52 food samples taken at the retail level showed any evidence of EDB residues, ranging from .9 parts per billion to 57.9 ppb. None of the six water samples tested showed evidence of EDB residues, while six of 12 raw grain samples showed levels of EDB.

In each instance where EDB levels were discovered, the product had been produced, processed or shipped into Pennsylvania from other states

EDB is used primarily as a gasoline additive and industrial solvent. Approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. production of the chemical each year is in these forms. EDB has been registered as a pesticide since 1948, with about 90 percent of the agricultural use as a soil fumigant, where it is injected into the soil to protect a crop from attack by root worms. Citrus fruits, soybeans and more than 30 other crops are treated this way. EDB has also been used to fumigate stored grain and citrus, and to treat grain milling machinery to prevent insect infestation.

Hallowell, who serves as chairman of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture EPA special committee, said that the organization had urged all states to adopt the EPA guidelines. "The decision on tolerance levels of EPA was based on information provided by state government agencies and industry alike. These tolerance levels were recommended by top scientists after evaluation of all available data, and should be supported and enforced uniformly with regulations applied across the nation."



Jeff Gerlach, Washington Boro, is the 1983 recipient of the James E. Martin Swine Achievement Award.

Bill Beam, of R2 Elverson, was elected a director for Chester County.

Other directors include: Mark Nestleroth, R5 Manheim; Cheryl Fairbairn, West Chester; T. Kenneth Emery, R1 Glenmore; Abe Fisher, R1 Kinzer; Abe Hess, R1 Conestoga; John Groff, Lampeter Road, Lancaster; Gus Birchler, R2 Conestoga; Kevin Rohrer, R2 Manheim; and Cliff

Charles, R2 Lancaster.

Guest speaker John Deiterly, Mid-Atlantic regional director for the Heifer Project International, spoke on the program's activities and progress. He presented a slide show on the programs utilized in foreign countries such as Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, East Africa, Honduras and the United States.

Farm management workshop scheduled

A Financial Management Workshop for farmers and farm couples will be conducted by the Lancaster County Extension. It will be held Feb. 28 and 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lampeter Fire Hall. Pre-registration is

required.

Speakers will include: Penn State Farm Management Specialists, Lancaster County Extension Agents and local farm financial lenders and advisors.

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