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For amber waves of grain...



Right to know will have impact on ag

BY LAURA ENGLAND

HARRISBURG — A legislative bill, currently awaiting action of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, calls for the posting and labeling of hazardous chemicals in the workplace, including nonmanufacturing industries such as farming.

The "Right to Know" bill is designed to provide employees in all occupations the right to know what chemicals or hazardous substances are in their workplace. The bill also extends the same to community members wanting to obtain information on chemicals in the workplace and the community.

Termed the labeling bill of hazardous and toxic substances, House Bill 1236 goes one step beyond the federal standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), according to Ken Lee of the research staff on labor relations.

"Federal OSHA standards provide the same information as this bill asks for," Lee said, "but it only covers the manufacturing sector. It doesn't deal with the

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Fourth of July vs. July 4

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

It's the All-American Day.

But it's a different kind of a day for different people.

For the majority of Americans -- more than 97 percent that are not engaged in production farming -- it's the Fourth of July -- a holiday.

For a minority of less than three percent of Americans who are production farmers, it's July 4.

There's a big difference.

For the majority, it was a welcomed mid-week chance to get an extra dose of sun and fun and a head start on this weekend.

For the minority, the sun was welcomed as an opportunity to get caught up a bit of field work that was delayed by the previous weekend's rain.

For the majority, it was a day of outdoor leisure -- at the lake, beach or backyard pool.

For the minority, it was 20 hours outdoors,

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Rabies moving to NE

Current center is Franklin County

BY JACK HUBLEY

HARRISBURG — A disease that took hold in West Virginia during the late 1970's is continuing its movement north and east, according to State Health Department epidemiologist Dr. Robert Jones.

Caused by a virus, rabies is an acute disease of the central nervous system that almost invariably results in death once symptoms appear. Though these symptoms may result in dramatic behavioral changes in the advanced stages of the disease, rabies is readily transmitted by victims that often appear quite healthy, Jones stresses.

"Dogs and cats will begin to shed the virus three to five days before symptoms appear," Dr. Jones points out, "and skunks may transmit the disease 17 to 18 days before they show symptoms."

Because of the broad spectrum of symptoms displayed by infected animals, laboratory testing remains the only reliable diagnostic technique, says Dr. John Cable, a veterinarian with the Bureau of Animal Industry. Cable advises that any form of abnormal behavior exhibited by wild animals is reason for caution.

"We've seen a number of cases where raccoons have climbed into dog kennels, and were either killed by the dogs or walked right in and took over the dog house," Cable says. "Loss of fear is common. Wild animals that aren't normally seen during the daylight hours may be seen wandering aimlessly when infected, and some animals may try to approach or follow humans."

As the disease advances, Cable states that a general weakness in an animal's rear quarters will lead to dragging of the hind legs.

In its terminal stages rabies may cause paralysis in the muscles located in the jaws and throat resulting in an inability to swallow. This condition, when coupled with hypersalivation, according to Dr. Jones, may lead to the "foaming at the mouth" appearance of some rabid animals. Jones points out, though, that the animal may simply fade away in a stupor, exhibiting none of the aforementioned characteristics. In either case, death usually results from paralysis of the chest muscles.

Franklin County district game protector Ron Schmuck points out

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