

EPA postpones Larvadex approval

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Officials of Ciba-Geigy Corporation's Agricultural Division said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has postponed the registration of Larvadex larvicide for at least six months and characterized the action as "disappointing."

The EPA proposed conditional registration of the product, used to control flies in and around commercial poultry operations where layer hens are housed, in the Federal Register published April 27.

According to Bert Honsch, director of animal health marketing for Ciba-Geigy, "We understand that following a month-long period for public comment on the registration proposal, EPA personnel indicated to members of Congress and poultry industry representatives who inquired about the status of the product that registration was imminent. Now, we've been told that we're required to repeat a study which was reviewed and accepted by the agency almost two years ago. We feel that the timing of EPA's request is inappropriate."

Dr. John Barnett, the company's director of safety evaluations, said scientists at Ciba-Geigy and the laboratory which conducted the study in question have re-evaluated the results and found them to be "accurate, valid and well within the prescribed guidelines that support registration of the product. Ciba-Geigy contends that EPA's demand to repeat the study is unnecessary, and our position is supported by outside experts. However, if we must repeat a study in order to make our product

available to the poultry industry, which needs it, we will comply with the request as soon as possible after the agency's questions are received."

Larvadex was being used in 28 states where fly control problems had reached emergency levels around some egg production facilities. In August 1983 the EPA temporarily revoked health risk indirectly related to it. The EPA, however, later reinstated the use of Larvadex in parts of four states -

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware - to aid in reducing the spread of avian influenza in poultry after U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers identified flies as potential carriers of the flu virus.

Dr. Barnett said the health question which caused the EPA to revoke the state permits last year has been resolved, and the study the agency wants repeated does not relate to it.

In a public release about the

proposed registration of Larvadex, the EPA said it "...has concluded that the benefits of cyromazine (Larvadex) are significant: the product is effective for controlling disease-transmitting flies which are a major problem in caged layer hen operations; it poses less risk than many, if not all, of the conventional pesticides registered to control flies in poultry operations; the product is easily applied; and it has little or no adverse effect on natural

predators of flies."

"I sincerely regret that, during the past few weeks, egg producers were led to believe Larvadex soon would be available," Honsch said. "Our optimism was based on the fact that registration was formally proposed and on positive indications from the agency, which now has imposed another delay on the registration of a unique product that could benefit producers and the general public."

Massey-Ferguson announces

improvements for pull-type combine

DES MOINES, Iowa. — Massey-Ferguson has announced that several features available on the

popular MF 850 self-propelled combines will be incorporated into the MF 852 pull-type combines as

well.

Heading the list of new features is polyurethane paint. Massey-Ferguson is the first company in the farm equipment industry to use the new paint on combines and grain headers. The higher gloss polyurethane paint is more flexible, has greater color retention and has better weather resistance.

A new straw chopper design with deeper spreading vanes and a relocated concave will provide, under most crop conditions, a more even straw spread over a 60 percent wider area.

The round hole screen in front of the bottom sieve has been changed to a slide-in type. Held in place by the rear adjustable sieve, the new screen provides an easier method of changing round hole sieves when changing crops.

A Petersen sieve option is now offered with the MF 852 combine. The familiar Closz sieves on MF combines will continue to be

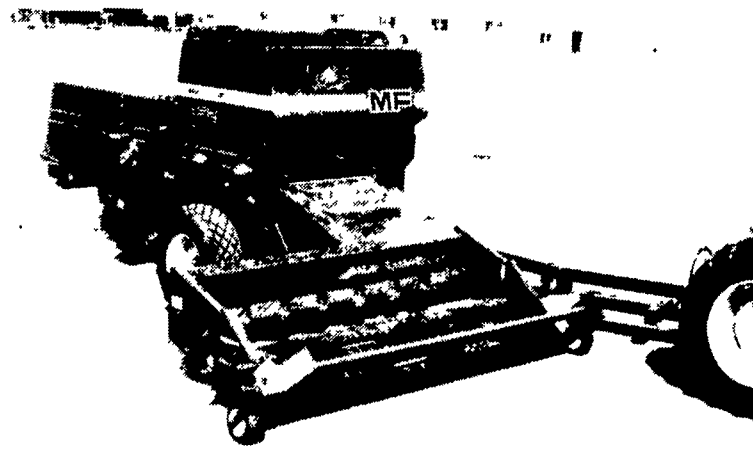
available. The Petersen sieve and is recommended for combines used to harvest small grains and grass seeds where exceptionally clean grain or seed is required.

For more information on the MF 852 pull-type combine and other MF combines, contact your local Massey-Ferguson dealer.

SAME winner

STARFORD — John Shedlock, Starford, an employee of Musser Forests, has just been named a winner in the national SAME Tractor "Pick-a-Purebred" Sweepstakes.

The contest offering three registered Labrador retriever pups of championship lineage, was directed to farmers throughout the United States by SAME & Lamborghini Tractors of North America, Bridgewater, New Jersey, marketers of "purebred" SAME agricultural tractors.

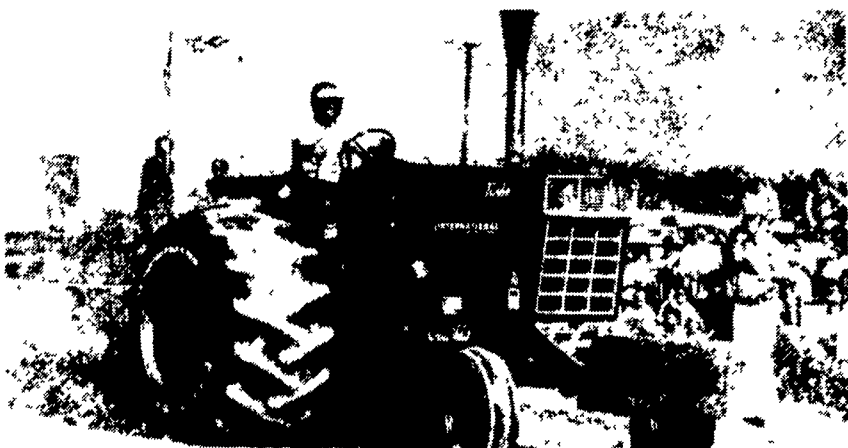


Massey-Ferguson has announced several new features for its MF-852 pull-type combines, including polyurethane paint, a new straw chopper design and a Petersen sieve option.

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