

Pesticide Regulations

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anyone farming will have to become a certified applicator or hire someone to apply his pesticides," said Longenecker.

Come March, though, the procedure for becoming certified will change, he explained. Private applicators who want to obtain restricted-use permits will have to take a supervised examination at a designated testing location. While the test will retain its open-book status, farmers will no longer be able to take it in their homes.

Up to this point, permits have been issued to qualified farmers free of charge. The new law imposes a \$10 fee for the permit's three-year duration.

Farmers applying for recertification will find that, for the first time, the pesticide law mandates what topics must be covered in the update training sessions. For recertification for 1987, applicants will need to take one hour of "core area" subjects, such as regulations, safety, environmental effects and label comprehension. A second hour dealing with pest-specific subjects, such as insect identification, control and integrated pest management, will also be required.

For 1988, two hours of instruction in each of the two categories will be required, and for 1989, three hours in each area will be needed. Credits acquired for one year will count toward the following year's quota, Longenecker said.

Farmers holding expired permits will find that there is a grace period until Mar. 31, 1987 that will enable those already certified to update their certificates under the existing program. But Longenecker emphasizes that the grace period does not give the holder of an expired permit the permission to purchase or use any restricted-use pesticides. And, under the new statute, private

applicators can be prosecuted for attempting to purchase such pesticides without a valid permit. Under the existing law only commercial applicators can be assessed civil penalties for offenses, but Longenecker cautions that the new law subjects private applicators to civil and criminal penalties as well.

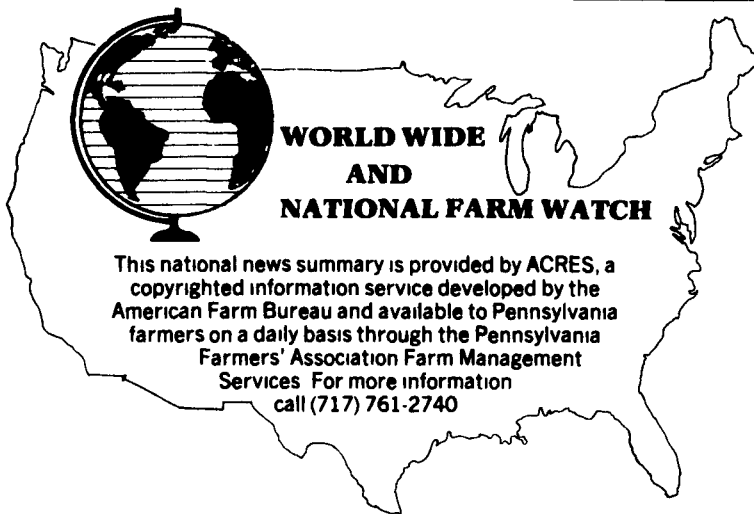
"There are major changes taking place," Longenecker summed up, adding that more information will be released from PDA as the details of the new law are ironed out.

But enough details have been released to give commercial applicators a clue to the increased work load to come. Bill Brubaker, president of Organic Plant Food Company, outlined some of the changes that would have major effects on his business.

Under the new law, said Brubaker, custom applicators will have to notify contiguous landowners prior to applying pesticides on a property. Brubaker said that compliance with this regulation could be a headache for applicators, especially in areas where agriculture meets suburbia.

The new law also requires that anyone applying pesticides must obtain technician status, which requires that the applicator completes 30 days of on-the-job training under a licensed commercial applicator. All of the bill's requirements apply to both restricted-use and general-use pesticides, where commercial applicators are concerned, Brubaker pointed out.

Despite the increased workload that the new act will create for his firm, Brubaker said that he was generally in favor of tightening regulations. "I think in the long run it's good," he said. "We've got to gain credibility among the non-agricultural public that we know what we're doing."



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Once more the depressed state of rural America is the target of politicians determined to save it. Republican members of Congress met this week near Chicago with farm state political leaders of the same persuasion. The group, hosted by Illinois Lt. Governor George Ryan, concluded that farm programs were not the complete answer and basic changes in them would not solve the problems of rural communities. The group called for diversification of rural economies as it urged President Reagan to immediately appoint the 15 member National Commission on Agricultural Policy established by the 1985 farm bill.

Kansas Senator Robert Dole told the group "Republicans are not

going to rest until the farmers and rural America become prosperous again."

Rep. Douglas Bereuter, Neb., said the federal government should begin to coordinate efforts by various farm states and private enterprise to improve the rural economy. Both he and Dole indicated a need for some changes in farm programs which, in Bereuter's words, "is a good starting point, but some improvements are needed next year."

Dole said farm policy should be aimed at improving prices and making exports more competitive and should be simple, consistent and predictable.

Farm Equipment

Firms Tighten Belts

Firms in the farm equipment industry have little to cheer about as their businesses continue to experience the same bleak economic conditions as the farmers they serve. But equipment manufacturers are coping in different ways, reports Farm Equipment magazine in a special November issue. Mergers, diversification, spinoffs of unprofitable divisions and just plain inventory reduction and cost cutting are some of the techniques being used by the various firms. Like some others, leaders in the farm equipment business feel that land prices are near the bottom of their cycle, but they expect performance figures for 1987 to be about level with 1986 with little hope of any dramatic improvement for at least a couple more years. One analyst, John McGinty of First Boston Corporation, sees strengthening land prices as a key to increased sales of farm equipment. He said, "I think we are near the bottom for land prices. But the only way we will know that is when land prices appreciate 10 percent. If that happens, farmer perceptions will change and we could see farm equipments demand pick up 25 percent overnight."

Economy Not Robust

Despite Rise

In Indicators

A 0.6 percent jump in the U.S. Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators signals improvement in the economy but analysts don't call the strongest jump since July's 1.0 percent increase an indication of a return to a robust economy. Manufacturing is still down and it will take an upturn there before there can be a turnaround in the overall economy, said Martin Mauro, senior economist at Merrill Lynch Economics, Inc., in New York.

Malcolm Baldrige, U.S. Treasury Secretary said a favorable sign is the sharp improvement in initial claims for unemployment insurance which he said "should mean faster growth in employment."

New Uses Encourage Corn Growers

Prices move down but world grain traders aren't buying, at least not as much as they used to. Last marketing year, global grain trade totaled 169 million tons. The year before that it was 207 million tons and the latest government forecast released that week put the

current year's trade at 164 million tons and that is off 7 million tons from the previous estimate, one month ago, by the Agriculture Department. Best explanations include higher production in some importing nations and failure of Pacific nations to buy as expected. Exports by the U.S. of 62 million tons is off 6.5 million from estimates of a month ago. Two years ago, the U.S. exported 93.5 million tons of grain.

Global stocks are high. Of the total world supply of 385 million tons, 225 million are stored in the United States. One significant factor in the declining exports is the Soviet Union's second largest crop on record which they report at 210 million tons. As a result of the large crop Soviet imports will be an estimated 21 million tons, less than half of the 55.5 million tons imported two seasons ago by the USSR.

PA Seedmen Hold Annual Meeting



LANCASTER - Al Turgeon, head of the agronomy department at Penn State, addresses the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Seedmen's Association here last Friday. Turgeon outlined five centers of excellence the Penn State agronomy department wants develop and ask for input into the program for agribusiness. The five areas of excellence are: turf grass systems, forage production systems, field crop production systems, soil and water reserve management and land resources assessment.

In the election of officers, the Seedmen named John Southerland, Standard Seed Company, president; Frank Welch, Beachley Hardy Seed Company, vice president; and Fred Lepley, Hoffman Seeds, Incorporated, secretary/treasurer. Dennis Shoop, Agway, and Tim Morkovitz, Pioneer Seed Company, were newly named to the board of directors.

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