

Tighter Regs Discussed At Fertilizer-Pesticide Conference

BY MARY MAXWELL
Centre Co. Correspondent

STATE COLLEGE — Over 200 fertilizer and pesticide dealers, growers and researchers recently had an opportunity to learn how new state laws will affect their businesses. The discussions were part of the annual Lime, Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference held last week in State College.

Winand Hock, professor of plant pathology and extension pesticide specialist, explained the Worker and Community Right to Know Act signed by Governor Thornburgh last October.

Hock concentrated on the non-manufacturing section of the legislation. A non-manufacturer is defined as a business such as agricultural crops or livestock, agricultural services, forestry and garden suppliers. Exempted under the act are research facilities when testing new products. If specific hazardous substances are used routinely, then information on those chemicals must be made available to employees.

Also exempted are consumers buying small amounts of hazardous substances such as those sold in garden supply or hardware stores.

Hock urged everyone in businesses involving chemicals to be familiar with the compliance materials in the Labor and Industry "Redbook." This is available in manufacturer and non-manufacturer editions and can be obtained by calling the Right to Know Compliance Unit, Dept. of L.&I., 717-783-2071.

The non-manufacturer book contains a cross-reference listing of 19,000 hazardous substances by trade and chemical names plus the

necessary forms needed in the workplace.

Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were explained, and conference participants were told to request forms from the Department of Labor and Industry well in advanced of the August, 1987 deadline for compliance. Farmers with even a single employee must have such sheets for materials used and dealers must have sheets for materials used and stored.

Farmers and others who use or store hazardous chemicals are expected to train employees and required to keep health and exposure records on their employees.

While enforcement of the new law may be difficult, Hock recommends that businesses keep good records so that if a question of compliance occurs, evidence is available and lawful practices can be substantiated.

John Longenecker, Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, followed with a discussion on Senate Bill 1445. One major change is the definition of those who are licensed to handle hazardous substances. To be a certified applicator one must pass a core exam and, if needed, category tests. A certified applicator is also expected to attend approved training courses for recertification.

A registered application technician is one who has received training by instructors qualified by the Pesticide Advisory Board and who works under the direction of a certified applicator. Employees who are not qualified in the above categories must work under the direction of an on-site certified applicator.

Longenecker outlined the changes in recertification that will be phased in over the next three years. There will be an increase in required certification credits and more agency supervision of training sessions. A state-wide list of training sessions will become available and licenses will expire in March so that applicators and technicians will have the winter months to complete training.

Another major change is that now businesses instead of individual applicators are liable. Businesses must get a Pesticide Application License by March 11. To qualify, the business must show that it has a certified applicator employed at all times and be financial responsible by having liability insurance.

Longenecker said that hearings are being held to further define the bill. "We need input from persons with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests," he said. He suggested contacting pesticide and fertilizer associations or the Pesticide Advisory Board for meeting times. "More work together means more workable results," Longenecker added.

David R. Brubaker, executive vice-president of PennAg Industries, concluded the series. He discussed liability insurance trends and agribusiness.

Brubaker spoke on the high cost of liability insurance and the importance of being covered. "Society is not accepting the risks it did 10 years ago from an environmental point of view," he said. "Those in agribusiness need to look ahead to what things are not even mandated in laws today. What is acceptable now may not be true in 10 years."



Pesticide conference speakers Win Hock (center) and John Longenecker (right) discuss the new pesticide law with Michael Schwarz of Mobay Corp.

With more rural lands becoming urbanized, Brubaker sees the composition of law-making bodies changing. Fewer legislators will be pro-agriculture, he feels.

Legislation may severely limit

the use of pesticides and fertilizers. "The public is becoming increasingly concerned about the environment and may become willing to pay for cost increases in food and taxes in order to decrease risks," he said.

Agricultural Building Ventilation Meeting

The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program will sponsor an Agricultural Building Ventilation session on Tuesday evening, February 3, at the Blue Ball Elementary School beginning at 7:30 P.M. Dairy, beef or swine producers who are in need of improving ventilation in existing buildings or considering new building construction would benefit by attendance.

Topics presented will include fundamentals of ventilation—what is necessary to make a ventilation system work; where to bring in and discharge air; designing

systems for new and existing buildings; selecting proper size equipment and costs for system requirements; and location of controls, maintenance, and insulation requirements. Mr. Nevin Wagner, Ag Engineer for Triple H Construction, will be assisting in the presentation and sharing slides of various installations.

All interested persons are invited. The blue Ball School is located 1/2 mile east of Blue Ball on Ewell Road, between routes 322 and 23. For further information call the Adult Farmer office at 354-4525.

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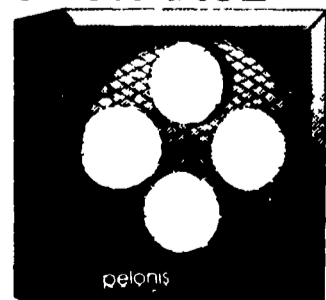
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