

## NACA Spreads Word About Farm Chemical Safety

WASHINGTON — The National Agricultural Chemicals Association (NACA) today announced a massive national program to improve the efficiency and professionalism of people on the front line of handling farm chemicals.

The comprehensive NACA undertaking will provide new tools to assure safety in a broad-based two-part effort aimed at the nation's farm community.

The program is called "Farm Chemical Safety Is In Your Hands." It focuses on communicating a single principle and only four simple elements, according to Dr. Earl C. Spurrier, NACA's vice president of Regulatory Affairs.

"We hope to develop understanding of the principle that

risk equals toxicity multiplied by exposure. By simply reducing exposure, you reduce risk."

"All it involves is the use of rubber gloves, water, thorough washing and following label instructions for all protective measures," said Spurrier who conceived the program.

One part of the program includes a 12-minute videotape and a 12-page booklet for training and communicating the message.

The second part is multi-faceted promotion of the "Rubber Glove Zone" concept. It involves distribution of educational packets to 3,700 farm chemical dealers in 26 states.

NACA has distributed the scripts and 10-, 30- and 60-second tapes promoting the rubber glove concept to some 3,600 radio stations

across the country which reach the nation's farmers. The program has already been tested and accepted overwhelmingly by farm chemical dealers as being an excellent safety approach. Some 1,042 dealers in six states participated in a six-state trial in 1986.

Spurrier contends the principle can be used "in every farm operation from managing a herd of cattle to driving a tractor or pickup truck. If we can persuade people that this will reduce exposure, then it becomes even more meaningful. That's the point we're trying to reach." The regulatory chief stressed that the dealers feel more of this needs to be done to develop recognition about how, why and where exposure can be reduced.

"Any user of farm chemicals can employ this program at virtually

no expense. Simply use gloves, have water available, and wash the gloves and hands and follow label instructions."

"For this reason, we developed a concise videotape presentation. We sent it to all state extension pesticide coordinators, 40 state associations, 18 farm groups including American Agriwomen and Women Involved in Farm Economics, all of our principal contacts to be used for dealer training, in-house training and vocational-agricultural training.

And we're getting positive responses."

Spurrier said one company ordered 75 videotapes and will equip all of its salesmen with two copies. "The salesmen will loan them to farmers to take home and show their families. Their view and ours is if we get the information out there, it will work."

The educational packets are available without charge from NACA. Contact them at 1155 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: 202-296-1585.

## Erosion Decreased In 1986

HARRISBURG — Was the Susquehanna, or the Allegheny or the Delaware River any less muddy last year? Probably not that you could notice, but ac-

ording to the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Harrisburg, soil erosion on Pennsylvania farmland decreased by almost two million tons last year.

This was due to soil conservation practices applied by more than 14,000 farmers in the state, reports James Olson, state conservationist. According to a report issued by Olson, over 241,000 acres were treated and protected against soil erosion.

SCS provided help to 26,800 landusers during 1986. Olson added that SCS's assistance to individual landusers is furnished through locally operated county conservation districts. He also pointed out that SCS's efforts to hold the soil in place improves water quality by keeping soil, fertilizers, and other farm chemicals out of streams.

Among the soil saving practices applied on Pennsylvania farms in 1986 were 25,500 acres of contour strip cropping, 516,600 feet of diversions, 345,000 feet of terraces, 575 acres of sod waterways and 193 animal waste management systems.

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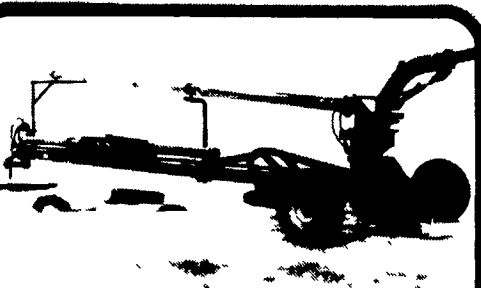
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