

Container Disposal Solutions Sorely Needed

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The disposal of pesticide containers has become a serious problem in rural America, the nation's farm managers and rural appraisers said in a poll conducted during their fall conference here.

Of the 302 poll respondents at the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA) annual meeting, 87 percent said pesticide container disposal has become a very serious or a somewhat serious problem. Only 8 percent thought it wasn't a problem.

When asked to rank potential solutions to the container problem, poll respondents said the best answer would be containers farmers could return to pesticide companies for reuse. Second best was a disposal program involving recycling.

Biodegradable, water-soluble or other innovative packaging ranked third, followed by bulk distribution that would eliminate most containers under 2.5 gallons, which represent 80 percent of the pesticide container problem. Ranked last was the designation of more accessible hazardous waste disposal sites.

Costs of resolving the container problem should be financed primarily by the users of the pesticides, more than half (51 percent) of poll participants said. More than one in four (27 percent) thought agricultural chemical manufacturers should pick up the cost, and 13 percent said it should be dealers and distributors. Only 2 percent thought the state or federal government should assume financial responsibility.

In the poll, conducted by Sandoz Crop Protection Corporation, 92 percent of the participating ASFMRA members said agricultural companies can help solve the container problem, and 82 percent said the firms are seriously pursuing solutions.

As for the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's involvement, 39 percent said the EPA's efforts were appropriate, 27 percent said their efforts were excessive, and 11 percent said EPA was doing too little. Almost a fourth (23 percent) said they didn't know how to describe EPA's efforts.

Most pesticides are sold in small plastic containers and become the property of the purchaser, usually a farmer or farm manager. Each year, farmers buy about 27 million 2.5-gallon and nearly 20 million 1-gallon containers of pesticides, according to

the National Agricultural Chemicals Association.

Established in 1929, ASFMRA is one of the oldest appraisal and land management organizations in the U.S., with more than 4,000 members. Farm managers control about 25 percent of U.S. crop land.

Two National Cattle Shows At NAILE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The 69th National Polled Hereford Show and the 19th National Chianina Show were held on Wednesday at the North American Livestock Exposition.

The National Polled Hereford Show was the largest of the year, featuring 335 cattle in 44 classes of competition. Cattle throughout the United States and Canada competed for \$20,000 in premiums.

Herefords are a breed of beef cattle having a reddish coat with white markings.

The American Polled Hereford Association is providing more information to the judges of the competition than it has in previous years.

"We're giving them more objective information such as the age, weight, ribeye area, fat thickness, and frame measurements of the animal," said Dr. John Hough, director of education and research of the American Polled Hereford Association. "We also measure fat thickness and frame size with an ultrasound."

The purpose of the American Polled Hereford Association providing this information is to give judges objective measurements to

help them to make an objective decision.

"We put the cards on the table and let them make the decision for the most prestigious Hereford event of the year," Hough said.

The 19th National Chianina Show was the largest Chianina

event of the year, featuring 372 cattle in 123 classes of competition. Breeders throughout the country competed for \$10,000 in premiums.

The National Chianina Show also featured the First National

Chiangus Show, which represented a major portion of the cattle competing this year. Chiangus are a crossbred of Chianina, a popular terminal breed, and the Angus, one of the leading maternal breeds in the industry.

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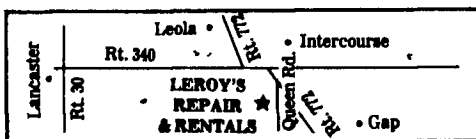
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