

Kodent Control Vial

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APHIS in finding out a great deal about SE. "We are in a position to apply the information to control programs to reduce contamination rate," he said.

In 1993, from Jan. 1-Dec. 1, there were 62 reported outbreaks of SE poisoning in humans, and 22 were egg-implicated. In 1994, in the same time span, there have been only 31 outbreaks, and only

seven have been egg-implicated.

Although the risk is there, it can be managed effectively, according to the researcher.

National work has already begun to set up an agency devoted to food safety. The new food safety agency is working to establish hazard analysis critical control points (HACCP) to be implemented by producers on a voluntary basis through the new group,

USDA Pre-Harvest Food Safety Agency.

The agency intends to move the USDA "from a cheap problem-solver to helping the industry find solutions to food safety problems," said Dr. Bonnie Buntain, director of the agency.

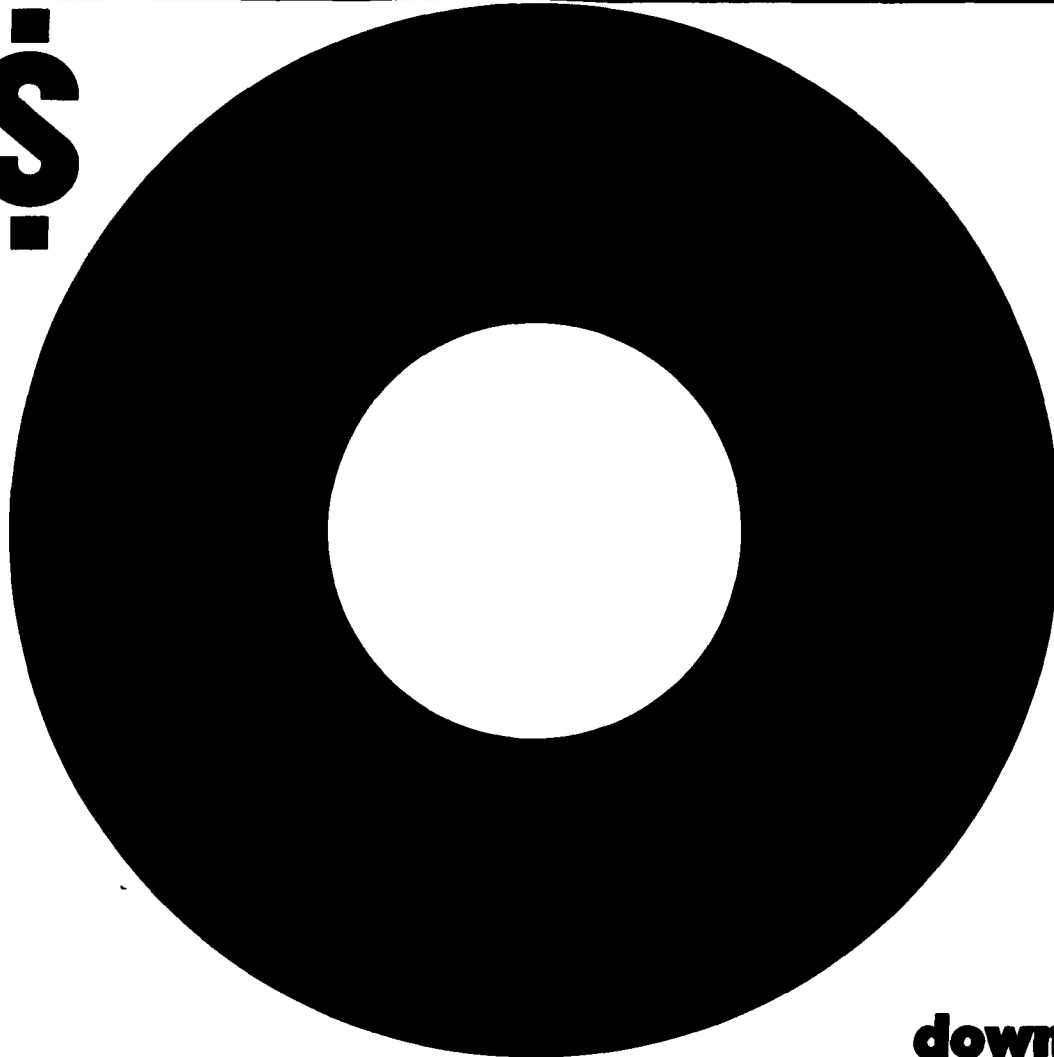
The new agency may combine the work of APHIS and other departments into one umbrella organization to provide a direct link to the administration, according to Buntain.

Also at the meeting, Larry Weaver, of Beitzel's Spraying, Witmer, spoke about the importance of cleaning and disinfection (C&D). "The most important problem is communication," he

said. The grower should be at the site during C&D to ensure that the site is ready for the work and that the workers are doing the work properly. This saves time and money.

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