

# NAFTA Should Help Improve Mexican Environmental Standards

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — For agriculture, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) should eventually improve environmental standards in Mexico, rather than pull down environmental standards in the United States, according to a Penn State expert.

"Environmental groups fear that, because of NAFTA, fruit and vegetable production will be transferred from the United States, where standards on the handling and application of pesticides are strict, to Mexico, where they are weak," said Dr. David G. Abler, associate professor of rural sociology and agricultural economics.

"But by promoting job growth and raising per capita income in Mexico, NAFTA will give the Mexican government incentive to upgrade environmental quality in that country."

A developing country with per capita income below \$4,000-\$5,000 will spend little on environmental protection and carry out few effective environmental policies. The result is often extensive air and water pollution, as well as deforestation.

"Without question, the environment is valued far more in the United States than in Mexico or any other developing country,"

Abler said. "The first concern for developing nations is economic survival. For them, the environment is a luxury good."

"However, once the economy improves, things change very quickly," he said. "Environmental problems such as water pollution, inadequate sanitation and most types of air pollution all diminish rapidly as per capita income increases."

"The explanation is that only wealthy countries like the United States can afford to devote scarce resources to environmental protection. Poorer countries like Mexico have other priorities that they perceive as more important."

Fortunately for Mexico, it is close to reaching a per capita income level of \$4,000-\$5,000. If the average income continues to rise, then it is logical to assume that water and air pollution will be less prevalent as public attitudes and policy change, says Abler.

"Americans have to remember what environmental conditions were like in this country in the 1930s and 1940s, when average incomes were far less than those

of today," he said. "Most of the key legislation protecting the environment dates from the 1960s and 1970s."

The Penn State professor is author of the article, "NAFTA, Agriculture and the Environment," which appeared in the University of Tulsa Law Journal.

"Pesticide application practices in Mexico have often been criticized and justifiably so," Abler said. "There are few Mexican regulations on pesticide handling and use, and those that do exist are widely ignored." Mexican workers hardly ever wear protective gear and are rarely given safety information. They generally cannot understand the information that they do receive because they are illiterate or the information is printed in English. There are no official statistics on pesticide poisonings in Mexico, which reflects the low priority assigned by the government to this problem.

"NAFTA will not affect U.S. environmental practices, which are governed by regulations already in place," Abler said. "In addition, Mexican and U.S. stan-

dards for pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables are largely in agreement, and NAFTA calls for elimination of the few remaining differences.

"The positive side to this is that unskilled farm workers in Mexico may well find better employment opportunities elsewhere, or opportunities for acquiring skills that would lead to better jobs," he said.

Either of these scenarios would improve the negotiating position of those who remained farm workers, making the unenviable choice between health and a job unnecessary.

"Some environmentalists maintain that the environment is unique and irreplaceable, and therefore no price can be or should be assigned to it," Abler said. "This argument is typically used against policies that trade off environmental objectives against economic interests, such as the 1992 controversy surrounding logging in the American West and the spotted owl. The argument has no merit, however, because, if taken literally, it would make daily living impossible."

## FMC To Build New Herbicide Plant

PHILADELPHIA — A new family of herbicides will be produced in a new state-of-the-art facility that will cost FMC Corporation an estimated \$88 million to complete by mid-1996.

The FMC Corporation board of directors recently approved the investment which will dramatically expand operations at the company's Baltimore, Maryland plant. FMC is a leading supplier of crop protection products worldwide, and has announced a commitment to expand the Agricultural Chemical Group's portfolio of products during the next few years.

"The new plant will produce a new family of herbicides with unique properties to provide farmers with safe, effective and more convenient ways to control troublesome weeds," says Robert N. Burt, FMC Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. "Growth within the Agricultural Chemical Group is being supported wholeheartedly by the FMC board of directors, and we look forward to introducing products that meet the needs of today's farmers."

He also notes, "Expansion at the Baltimore site should increase employment by 30 to 40 persons once the production facility is at full capacity."

Plans are that the first new herbicide to be manufactured at the plant will be Authority™, a new

broad-spectrum preemergent herbicide for control of weeds in soybean fields. Authority has yet to be registered for sale. FMC earlier this fall submitted the registration package for Authority to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We expect the new manufacturing plant to be completed by July 1996, in time to supply product for the 1997 soybean-growing season. Site preparation is already well under way," says Bill Schumann, Director North American Agricultural Chemical Group.

"Authority is a preemergent soybean herbicide that is mainly taken up by the weed's root system. In weeds, it disrupts an enzyme system critical to the production of chlorophyll," explains Sid McDaniel, North American Development Manager for FMC Agricultural Chemical Group. "It will be an important addition to the arsenal of products that farmers have available to fight weeds because it has a different mode of action to kill weeds than products which are now widely used in soybean fields." He notes that the herbicide is highly active against morningglories, nutsedges, nightshade, pigweeds, cocklebur, smartweed, lambsquarters, barnyard grass, crabgrass, fall panicum and many other weeds.

### PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY MARCH 27

9:30 AM

TANEYTOWN

FARM EQUIPMENT

RT 832 1 MI. EAST OF TANEYTOWN CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME

TRACTORS: AC 180, CA, JD 4430 fender, 4020 PS WF, 4020 SR WF, 2010 NF, 2940 4x4, 2440, Int 574 1200 Hr., 300 Utility, MF 35D, 1130, 265, T020, Ford 8n, 9n, 2000G PS, Case 830.

LOADER TRACTORS: Deutz 4506 4x4 sharp, JD 770 900 hrs., Kioti 2614 4x4, Kubota B7200, JD 2440 w/146 loader 3100 original hrs., B.H. loader for MF 265 (new).

FRONT CUT MOWERS: Steiner 18 hp., Grasshopper 718 (new), Lesko commercial 52" cut.

GARDEN TRACTORS: JD 330D, JD 240, Power King 2418, JD 112, yellow, collector's item.

HAY EQUIPMENT: NH 256 rake, JD 640, 660 rakes, NH 310 baler w/thrower, Gehl 9' haybine, JD 1327 discbine (like new), NH 850 round baler, Vermeer 605C round baler, MC rotary scythe.

PLOWS: Int. 1 bottom, Ford 2 bottom, JD & Pittsburg 4 bottom, Oliver 3 bottom, JD 12' disc, JD 210 disc.

MOWERS: Woods 20' Bat Wing, 2 Woods 15' Bat Wing mowers, Lilliston 7 6 3pt. mower, NH 451, 455 mowers, others.

INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT: Fork Lifts-Cat V70D 7000 lb., MF 2500 w/cab, Int. 238 tractor w/6 way blade, Long 3pt. Backhoe w/pump.

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NEW EQUIPMENT: Will be sold absolute. New 5, 6, 7' mowers, scraper blades, boom poles, post hole digger, Shaver HD8 post driver, Baltic seeders, cultivators. New 16' 2 axle trailer 10,000 GVW, 7" snow blower.

NOTE: We are expecting many more tractors and more equipment by sale day. Be on time. Limited number of small items. Selling garden tractors at about 10:30 AM. Tractors at 11:00 AM. We will be finished by 2:00 PM.

For info call Sam at 410-751-1500

Auctioneers

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Items subject to prior sale.

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### TOM & IRENE ATCHISON FARM AUCTION

having sold the farm we have been commissioned to sell on

FRIDAY MARCH 24th

@ 10:00 A.M.

at the Atchison Farm, Oak Hill Road, Barton, N.Y. (Tioga County) Farm is three miles off Rte. 17C at Barton - 4 miles east of Waverly, N.Y.

TRUCK: 1988 Chevrolet Scottsdale 3500 dually pick-up 56000 miles - V8 454 auto - equipped with Dew Eze hydraulic bale lift

TRAILER: 16 ft. Winnebago tri-axle - dump EQUIPMENT: J.D. 336 baler w/30 thrower; Hesston 714 Forage Harvester - elec. sharpener - 2 row corn head; J.D. 3800 forage harvester - elec. controls - hydraulic hitch - pick up head; Sundance Miller Tub Grinder; Moore no till grass seeder; IH 56 corn planter; Hesston 1010 hydro swing mower conditioner; Brillion Cultimulcher; 10' cultipacker; Hesston PT 10 parts unit; IH 540 5x plow; AC transport disc; 3 sets drags; J.D. 714 silage wagon; Papec 3 btr. silage wagon; 2 hay wagons; 2 running gears; Papec blower; feed racks; 3 pth sprayer; Van Dale 2400 gallon tank spreader; bale carriers; '55 Ford C600 truck; Winpower 25KW Generator; Patz agitator; Little Giant corn dray; spin spreader; grass seeder; etc.

BARN EQUIPMENT: Haverline powerfeed cart; Van Dale 16' silo unloader; Patz 98 - 14-16' silo unloader; 3 feed carts; compressor for Zero tank; Surge units; pulsators; stations; corn cribs; hydraulic fertilizer auger; alum. conveyor; etc.

MISC: welder; sheller; quick hitch; fenders for Leyland; snowmobiles: J.D. & Polaris; pickup fuel tank; chrome pickup bumper

PRODUCE: 400+ bushel oats; plus round bales & square bales barn stored and some round outside; plus much more found around the farm

HOUSEHOLD, ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Roper elec. stove; Whirlpool Mark I side by side refrigerator; microwave; upright freezer; electric organs: Kimball 2 manuel & Hammond chord; old buffet; desk; file cabinet; oak side by side; swivel recliner; coffee & end tables; sleeper couch; book case; clocks; lamps; pictures & old frames; gilt mirror; dressers; hall tree; Admiral T.V.; dome top & square trunks; beds; quilts; candle stand; clothes rack; brass lamp; CB base unit; projector and movie screen; bench; plus many more items found in home that has been in the family for 50 plus years.

TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK LUNCH AVAILABLE

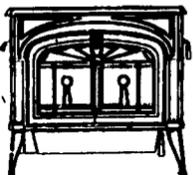
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