

'Bioterrorism' Growing Concern In Public Perception

(Continued from Page A37)

Avian influenza, highly pathogenic and costing millions of dollars in eradication efforts and lost birds in the early '80s here, is undergoing a serious outbreak now in Italy. Newcastle disease is causing the broiler industry to literally close in Australia.

The "Superbowl," said Brown, of outbreaks was the Taiwanese outbreak of foot of mouth disease brought in with Chinese pigs, killing eight million hogs and costing \$25 billion.

About a half million metric tons of pig carcasses had to be disposed of, creating environmental issues.

Producers need to concern themselves about the global problems associated with diseases. The interrelationship we have now with global marketplaces puts new emphasis on putting bioterrorism into perspective.

Some are pointing to the effects of *Pfiesteria piscicida* contamination of the Chesapeake Bay, which not only kills fishes

but humans who come in contact with it experience skin ulcers and "cognitive deficits" or short-term memory loss that could last months.

And now, with traditional small family farm agriculture being replaced by large-scale agribusiness enterprises, noted Brown, biological terrorism, if it occurs, can affect many industries in a big way.

Russia, where the "ruble has turned to rubble," Brown noted, once was home to 15,000 scientists alone skilled in some form of biological warfare. They've

since left their country, simply to take up home in other countries that can pay them.

Here in the U.S., the USDA is doing all it can to prevent the terrorism. "But they need more funding," she said. "People in the USDA are trying hard, but the general public has a poorer

appreciation about what it takes to take care of our livestock."

Right now, scientists are only learning about plant and animal disease. Potential "crossovers" to humans are another concern in which the parameters have yet to be mapped out.

Web Site Information On Organic

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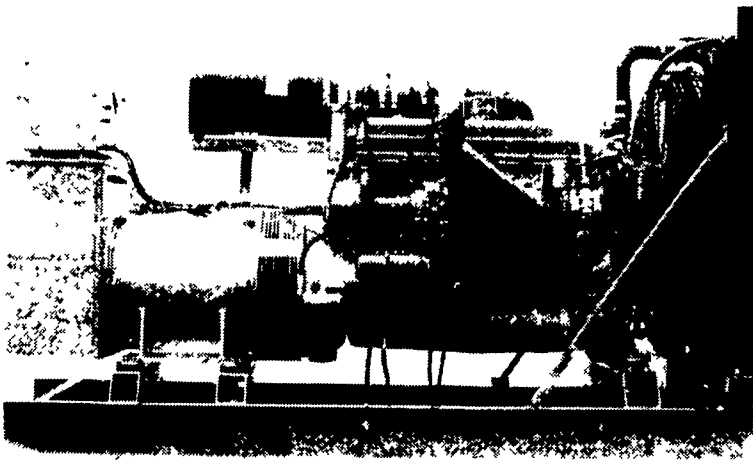
I would like to thank Tim Elkner and Greg Burns for passing on this information. Rick Snyders website in Mississippi has some organic information, <http://ext.msstate.edu/pubs/pub2036.htm>.

There are also several organic production pubs, on the ATTRA website, including <http://www.attra.org/index.html>.

Another site with info mixed in is Mary Peets Sustainable Veg Production in the South, <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/sustainable/peet/>.

The title of this site is Dont Panic, Eat Organic! <http://www.rain.org/sals/my.html>.

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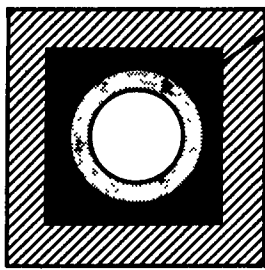
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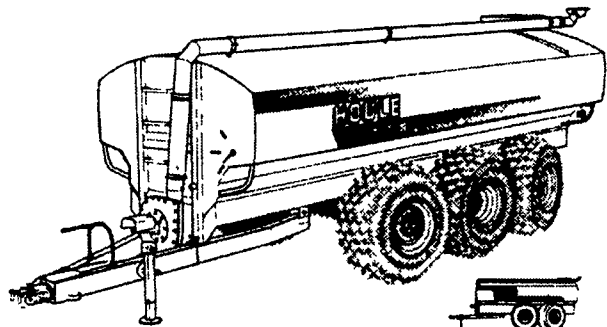
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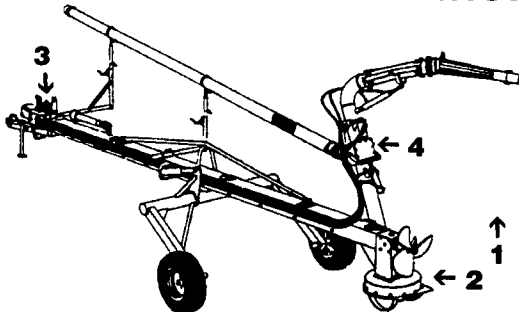
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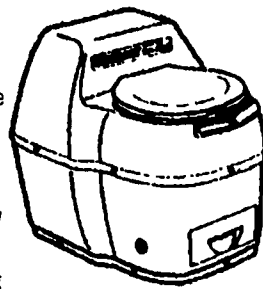
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