

Feeding

by J. W. Crowley

Pesticides are good— use them wisely

Even though there now are tolerances for DDT residues in milk, this does not change the safety precautions.

IN MARCH, the Food and Drug Administration set a pesticide tolerance for milk. This ends the unrealistic "zero tolerance" which was impractical to obtain and that was previously on the books. Actually, the new ruling makes legal what has been done previously. Because of the sensitivity test that was previously used and the near impossible "zero," small amounts have been ignored. The new tolerance levels are more strict than what some had ignored previously.



Crowley

The established tolerances are for DDT, DDD, and DDE. Tolerance for other pesticides is still zero, but tolerances for those may be established soon.

The tolerance for each or any combination of DDT, DDD, and DDE is 0.05 parts per million (ppm). This means less than one ounce in a million pounds of milk. Tolerance on a milk fat basis is 1.25 ppm. These established tolerance levels are essentially the same as those actually used for several years. In other words, milk considered contaminated last year would exceed the tolerance now established.

The tolerances do not allow any use of DDT, DDD, or DDE on dairy cattle, in dairy barns, or crops fed to dairy cows. If tolerances are established for other pesticides, it will not change present recommendations for use.

The established tolerances do not change the restrictions on use of DDT. Likewise, precautions given for other pesticides likely will not change if tolerances are established.

Recommendations and labels printed prior to the March ruling still must be followed. Likewise, any accidental contamination of feed or milk still must be avoided. Drift from nearby fields still would cause contamination.

Research has shown that one feeding of a contaminated feed

lowing table shows the results.

One dose of DDT dramatically increased the amount in the milk in about 12 hours. The decline in both the long-time feeding and single dose was about 10 percent per week. To

DDT, DDD, and DDE in milk fat

Date	ppm	
	Cow 1	Cow 2
April 30	.34	.30
(Fed grain containing DDT)		
May 1	259.0	313.9
May 10	11.3	12.4
June 9	5.4	6.7

get the milk fat down to the established tolerance of 1.25 ppm would require about 20 weeks.

One accidental exposure of cows to a freshly sprayed crop could result in contaminated milk for five or six months. The economic loss makes it essential to avoid even one accidental intake.

To be competitive today, farmers need to use pesticides and they are. According to USDA reports, farmers spent \$456 million for pesticides in 1964. This was about \$300 per farm. Crop farmers spent more than livestock farmers. However, dairy farmers ranked sixth among the various groups, spending \$35 million for pesticides.

Controlling flies and other insects is important. Chemicals must be used along with good management, but be sure that pesticides used on the farm do not accidentally cause problems.

The extension service in each state and most milk markets recommend the best chemicals for your area. Safety is given major consideration, so be sure to follow instructions carefully.

Correction

In our April 25 feeding column on page 534, there was an error in the table concerning the percent TDN according to date of harvest for southern Wisconsin. The table should have been as follows:

Date of harvest	Stage of growth	TDN % hay basis
May 24	Vegetative	61.7
June 7	Late bud	57.9
June 22	One-half bloom	51.6
July 6	Seed	49.0

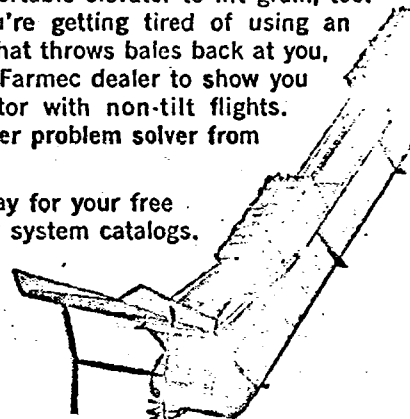
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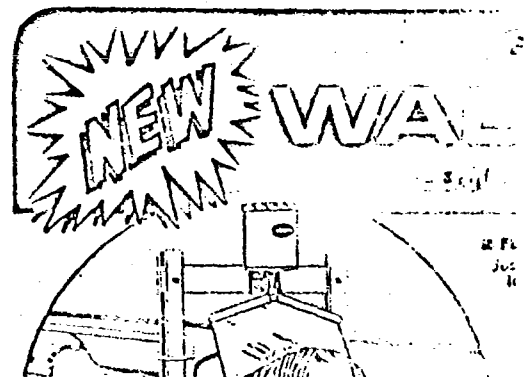
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Research has shown that one feeding of a contaminated feed causes problems for weeks. When feeds containing DDT are fed to dry cows, milk produced later will be contaminated.

Arizona research showed that removing DDT contaminated feed for 30 days before calving did not help. In this study, the milk fat contained 200 ppm the first week after calving. At 37 weeks after calving, the milk fat still contained 5.3 ppm. The amount of DDT in the feed influenced the level and length of time DDT was in the milk. But, this work definitely shows that contaminated feeds should not be fed to dry cows.

The work above was done when feed containing DDT was fed for 60 days. A more recent report shows that a single dose also must be avoided. In this Arizona study, DDT was mixed in grain and given at one feeding. About 1/4 ounce (8.5 grams) was given to mature cows. The fol-

lowed the amount in the milk in about 12 hours. The decline in both the long-time feeding and single dose was about 10 percent per week. To

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Jersey makes record

A new record for cows more than 14 years of age has just been completed by Fairview Majesty Duchess, a registered Jersey cow owned by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Austin, Fairview Jersey Farm, Grafton, W. Va.

In the first 305 days of her lactation, she produced 20,610 M, 884 F. This is the first 305-day record over 20,000 pounds of milk by a Jersey 12 years old or over, regardless of milking frequency.

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