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Attorneys think Haley-PC

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The \$1.3 million Haley-PCB lawsuit may run through mid-May, according to witnesses made by attorneys Wednesday.

Superior Court Judge M. Richard Knoblock asked attorneys for estimates on the length of the trial after the parties had the court over for an afternoon recess. James Woodworth, R, and Ann, one of the attorneys representing the Haleys, said he expects to run his case about April 17. William Jagerbald, the Superior attorney representing Minnesota Chemical Company, R. Louis, Minn., said he will need about three additional weeks to present defense witnesses.

By the time both sides are presented — and the jurors consider the case — the lawsuit could last until mid-May, lawyers said. The trial had been expected to end sometime in April.

"We're just going to have to keep our noses to the grindstone," Knoblock told attorneys.

Roger A. Haley, his wife Valerie, and Roger's mother Florence Haley, are suing Minnesota, C and S Silo and Minnesota Silo for \$1.3 million. The Haley's claim poor health, cattle deaths and financial losses at their Oronoke farm because of PCB contamination.

The trial was adjourned until 1 p.m. today because of other court business. Attorneys had requested an adjournment until Monday, but Knoblock denied the request. Knoblock has previously adjourned the trial on Fridays for other court business.

During the morning recess Wednesday, James Woodworth, R, and Ann, completed questioning of his client, Roger A. Haley.

Haley said he has suffered poor health — including hypertension, an elevated red blood cell count, severe sores on his neck and upper chest and recurring bronchitis — because of PCB contamination.

"My hypertension before I bought the farm was controllable with medication. Now it is almost uncontrollable," Haley said.

Haley said his wife also had severe sores and has had problems with bronchitis over the last several years. Haley said neither he or his wife smoke or drink.

"We have lost our vitality for life. I watched my wife just break down and cry as she fed calves that just wouldn't live. Nothing, nothing seemed to work," Haley testified.

Haley, who has been examined by several doctors, said he felt like a "guinea pig."

"My feeling is that myself and my family are being looked upon as guinea pigs, and being used as such."

Haley said.

Haley said his relationship with his wife has been strained by difficulties he attributed to PCB contamination.

"It's been as good as we can expect, I guess. We are unable to enjoy a normal marital relationship anymore," Haley said.

Haley said problems with his throat, mouth, bronchitis and family "wishes are hard to be born of a man."

Haley gained several times during his testimony to compose himself. After Woodworth finished his questions, John Davidson, a Superior attorney representing C and S Silo, cross-examined Haley.

Davidson asked Haley if he would like to take a break before he began his questions. Haley declined.

Davidson questioned Haley about his formal education concerning dairy operations and his estimates of cow deaths. Haley said he took some agricultural courses in high school, but most of his experience at dairy farming was "hands on." As a child, Haley worked with his father on the family's dairy operation and later entered a partnership with another dairy farmer for a short time.

Davidson asked Haley if he and the partner described the partnership because of a disagreement. Haley said personal reasons and his partner's health caused the partnership to break up. Haley took over operation of

PCB trial will last until May

the dairy herd after the milk was taken to the tank.

Devonian also questioned Halsey's decision on how and what to do. Halsey testified he looked at the milk and decided he had to do something. He then turned to the milk and decided to do something.

"In this case of yours by look or by touch or what? You can't give me any sense of how many calves you lost," Devonian asked.

Halsey stopped him. "Would you like to go out and dig them up?"

Judge Blacklock told Halsey to answer the question. Halsey told he had no records of milk deaths.

In other questioning related to the cow and calf deaths, Devonian asked Halsey where or how he disposed of some of the milk.

"You said some at Sandusky for slaughter and did not tell them of PCB problems. Is it possible that most could have wound up on somebody's table as steak?" Devonian asked.

"It's possible," Halsey said.

"You know these milks were going to be slaughtered and sold to the public?" Devonian asked.

"Yes," Halsey responded.

Later in the day, Halsey testified he ate meat and drank milk from his cow daily.

He also testified cattle houses were too dark. Halsey said he did not know if the loss of his silos was too

dark.

Devonian questioned Halsey for a short time in Wednesday's morning session and continued through the afternoon, with one of Halsey's expert witnesses in the back of the courtroom taking notes. When the trial started, Blacklock had given detailed notes by Blacklock in, regular court sessions.

Blacklock also had given with Halsey, discussing feeding practices and changes Halsey made at the farm after he purchased it in 1968. Blacklock questioned Halsey about his relationship between his verbal testimony and two depositions made by Halsey.

Blacklock noted Halsey's original estimate of milk loss was six dead calves, which conflicts with his more recent estimate of 28. Halsey revised the methods he used to determine his losses and damages and said the estimate of 28 calves was accurate.

Halsey was also questioned - again - on his former farming education. Devonian attorneys asked Halsey's production practices were the result of poor management or training rather than PCBs. Blacklock went over the Halsey dairy operation in

detail Wednesday, and the defense attorney was expected to continue his cross-examination this afternoon.

In other court action, Judge Blacklock denied a motion by defense attorneys to allow new testimony concerning losses made by Community Bank, Land Area, to the Halseys. Defense attorneys said part of Halsey's loss recovery is based upon money he may receive as a result of the lawsuit.

"Mr. Halsey is, in essence, a show man for the bank," Blacklock said.

Blacklock refused to allow any testimony on the topic.

"I don't really think it has much of an impact on the case. I wouldn't say what (Halsey) said was untrue about the bank," but it was incomplete," Blacklock said.

Blacklock had questioned Halsey about various losses but work. Halsey detailed the amounts of the losses and dates of refinancing.

Halsey has testified he secured a \$200,000 loan from Community Bank in 1970, of which \$60,000 is currently outstanding. Halsey also has \$71,600 outstanding from a loan made to him by the Michigan Trust Suburban Fund, which was set up for PCB contamination and PCB contamination.

In the Thursday eve-
ning 7-9 p.m.,
showing exhibits
planned: Home Ex-
position and Un-

derstandings: Child
Caring by Thomas Cleland;
On Painting by John Miller;
and Gern Craft. Displays
will also be included on

book programs will be
conducted at the Library on
Main Street, Uby.
A selection of new books
for youths aged 10 to 14 will