COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS - STATE OF OHIO

AREA EXTENSION CENTER

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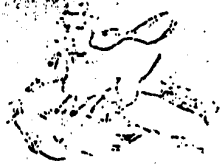

DAIRY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Mr. Dairyman:

Many of you are concerned, and rightly so, about the possibility of milk contamination from using epoxy compounds to seal the inside of your silos. I trust the following information will clear up most of the questions and concerns you have.

- A few dairymen have encountered problems when they have had existing silos recoated with epoxy containing the material called Cumar (Aerochlor 1254).

- Cumar has been added to the epoxy compound to reseal existing silos because it increases the adhering properties of the epoxy.

- Even when Cumar has been used, the epoxy reseal coat will flake off within 2 to 3 years. This is where the contamination problem has arisen.

- The sealing material containing Cumar is eaten by the cows in the silage and then appears in the milk as a chlorinated hydrocarbon. Such compounds are not permitted in milk.

- To my knowledge, no silo company in the Wooster area is presently using Cumar (Aerochlor 1254).

- Those of you who have had silos resealed with an epoxy compound containing Cumar (Aerochlor 1254) should be very cautious about feeding silage from them and should have the sealer completely removed before refilling them. Check with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Foods, Dairies and Drugs if you have any questions.

- Epoxy compounds that do not contain Cumar (Aerochlor 1254) and are approved are safe to use for sealing silos. Therefore, those of you who are going to construct new silos this summer and seal them with an epoxy compound can do so, but be sure that the compound is approved for use on animal facilities. The company you buy your silo from should know if the compound is safe to use.

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- Some companies are using non-epoxy sealers on silos. If you use such a compound, be sure it is approved and safe to use on animal facilities.

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Also concerning the problem of contamination, be very careful to follow the recommendations in the 1970 Cooperative Extension Service Bulletins concerning the use of agricultural chemicals. These bulletins can be obtained from your County Cooperative Extension Service office. Being careless or using a non-recommended herbicide or pesticide can be worse than using none at all.

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Concerning the "take off-pay back" milk payment plan for Federal Order No. 36 which I mentioned in my first newsletter, to date no recommendation has been made by the U.S.D.A. on amending the Federal Order to incorporate such a plan.

Due to the time involved in incorporating such a plan into the order, it seems very unlikely that such a plan would go into effect before August of 1970, if the recommendation is made to incorporate the plan into Federal Order No. 36.

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Until my next newsletter, I'm pulling with you for a better dairy industry.



Sincerely,

Donald E. Pritchard

Donald E. Pritchard
Area Extension Agent
Dairy Industry

DEP/sjb

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