Editorials



By Andrew L. Stevens

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IT'S A PEOPLE SHOW

We are sure you'll find the 1976 Ohio Farm Science Review an enjoyable and educational experience. We have listed some of the new things to be seen, beginning on page 38. But this isn't necessarily the highlights of the Review. People are the real reason your Farm Science Review visit will be profitable.

Every exhibit at the Review will have qualified people available to answer your questions. This is a source of information that you should use. See you at the Review.

THE PCB PROBLEM

There is a problem in Ohio which is costing at least one dairyman over $350 per day. He has been dumping over a ton of milk per day for 80 days. He has a problem with a material called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). He is aware of five other dairymen that have suffered similar losses in the past five years.

Between 1941 and 1970, many silos in Ohio were treated with a coating material called Cumar. (The silo coating called Cumar which contains PCB's should not be confused with Nevill R-16-A resin which has the same name.) This coating contained the PCB called Aroclor 1254 (Monsanto). The PCB's in this coating are dissolved by the silage juices and PCB residues migrate into the silage.

When the contaminated silage is fed to cows, the PCB residues accumulate in the milk. The Food and Drug Administration has established a "temporary tolerance" for PCB's of 0.1 parts per million (ppm) for whole milk (2.5 ppm on a fat basis). If this tolerance is exceeded, the milk can no longer be marketed.

We will be giving out more details on this problem later this fall. In the meantime, if you suspect that your silo could be contaminated don't hesitate to have it tested. You definitely should not fill a silo that is suspected of being contaminated with PCB's.

THE WORLD'S FOOD TABLE

If everyone in the world sat down at one table to eat, it would stretch some 30 times around the earth's equator. The table would need to be lengthened 38 miles each day for new mouths coming to dinner.

In March, 1976, the world's population reached four billion. It took just 15 years to add the fourth billion. The acceleration in population growth is ever increasing. By the year 2000, the total is expected to reach six billion.

Food production is one of the keys to this country's proud record of achievement over the last 200 years. America is great because of our insistence on the right of everybody to be different, to dissent, to achieve, to dream, to accomplish, to succeed, and to fail.

We have been a nation of entrepreneurs — of "money-makers." The incentive system works. Farmers have seen this incentive system work first-hand on our farms — with capital on the line, taking risks, working hard, not punching the 40-hour clock, not taking weekends off — always with the hope of making a profit.

Our incentive system has been and will likely continue to be under heavy attack. Yet, it provides better living for more people than any other system has ever managed to do throughout history. It built this country from a struggling, developing nation to world leader.

Increased food production during the next 25 years will be man's greatest test. Peace will be in the balance unless hunger and starvation can be overcome. We are fortunate that the past leaders of our nation placed food and agricultural development in such an important place among our national goals. As the world's population rapidly expands, we will have a renewed challenge to meet the need for food. □

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