Long Term Pesticide Effects Under Study

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Increased demand for more production on less land has pushed farmers into a sophisticated agriculture which relies heavily on the use of chemicals to control pests.

Some of the chemicals, or pesticides break down rapidly after use and are considered harmless. Others leave residues for years and could be considered dangerous. They all behave differently.

At Clemson University, SC Experiment Station soil chemist K. S. LaFleur is taking a close look at the behavior of pesticides applied to the soil in an effort to determine their long-term effects on crops and consumers.

About 1,200 pesticides, in some 35,000 formulations are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. How safe are they?

Before soils can be considered maringally safe, LaFleur says, "they must lose at least 90 percent of applied pesticides."

Because testing a single material for its residual effects is a long, tedious process, LaFleur is constructing a mathematical 'prediction model' designed to evaluate long-term effects of pesticides. The model is based on intense study of 12 of the most representative presticides, chosen for their diverse chemistry and usefulness in South Carolina.

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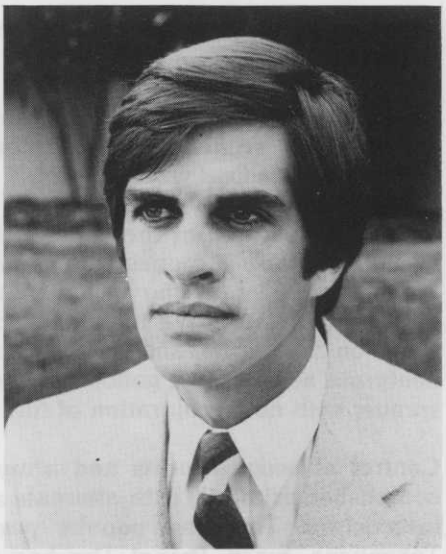

Dr. Batterson Named To Research Center Faculty

Dr. Ted R. Batterson has recently joined the faculty as an assistant professor at the University of Florida Agricultural Research Center in Fort Lauderdale. The position he fills was created with the establishment of the Aquatic Weed Research Center, a functional element of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (FAS) of the University of Florida, located at Gainesville. He joins an interdisciplinary group of both university and USDA personnel who are jointly cooperating in research concerned with controlling aquatic weeds. His research will in the development and implementation of an integrated approach to noxious aquatic weed control incorporating biological, chemical, and mechanical means.

Dr. Batterson received his B.A. in Biology from Western Michigan University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Aquatic Ecology from Michigan State University. During his graduate program he served as both a teaching and research assistant. Teaching responsibilities included involvement with courses taught on campus as well as at the Kellogg Biological Field Station. As a research assistant he was actively involved in a variety of projects concerned with the aquatic environment.