

Hens and DDT; More on Weldon

The other day, while watching an NBC-TV program on the subject of DDT, it occurred to me that manufacturers have overlooked an important source of data that may well be compiled at minimum expense to refute some of the wild guesses on the harmfulness of DDT in the human environment.

Toward the end of the TV program, a film clip showed men in a chemical plant stacking hundreds of pounds of DDT in a warehouse. They wore no special protective clothing; they were in clouds of dust particles. And they seemed quite healthy.

How many men in the chemical factories have been doing this sort of work with DDT for more than two decades? How many chemists in the laboratories have been working with it? How many field men on farms, in the forests and on town and private properties have been spraying and dusting with DDT for many years? How many federal, state and other scientists have been experimenting with DDT all these years?

Let us go to the second generation of men working closely with DDT along with their older compatriots and poll them. Take a look at the third generation at home with their mothers and sisters and brothers.

I have worked with a fair sample of these people and do not know of one even remotely incapacitated by DDT.

While we're at it, let's take a look at another dormant pile of interesting data. How many bil-

lions of hen eggs have been produced with quite normal shells since 1945? How many of the hens laying these eggs have spent their entire lives in areas sprayed and dusted with DDT? How much of the poultry food—corn, grain, greens, etc., that they have consumed has been raised in the same or similar environment?

Of course, hens got balanced diets. Their feathered relatives in the wild seldom get de-loused and fed as well. Do they? They aren't usually exposed to as much DDT, either!

I look forward to the development of pesticides that are harmless to all life forms save the one that make up the target. Let's put the Ban Wagons back in the barn and get politicians to work raising taxes to support chemical and biological research, integrating the races, eliminating poverty, increasing the value of the dollar and winning the war to end war.

DDT might possibly hurt somebody sometime. The acorn that hit Chicken Little might possibly have been the sky falling. Science, however, deals in **probabilities** and not possibilities. **PHILIP L. RUSDEN**, editor, Connecticut Tree Protective Association.

More About Lyle Weldon

Lyle Weldon's enthusiasm for his field of work always impressed me. His dedication and hard work was reflected in similar outputs by his colleagues and assistants. He was highly regarded

by his scientific peers, because of his knowledge of aquatic weed control and his scientific contributions. Dr. Weldon's death leaves a large gap in our research program that will be most difficult to fill.—**W. B. ENNIS, JR.**, Chief, Crops Protection, Research Branch, USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

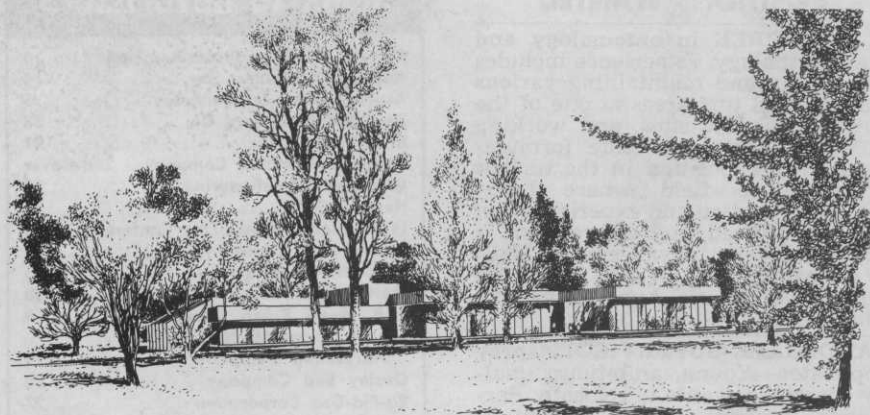
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Dr. Lyle Weldon will be long remembered for his many major contributions to the field of aquatic weed control. He was the author or co-author of about 90 publications.

He continuously contributed unselfishly to assist drainage districts, municipalities, the State of Florida, and individuals in solving troublesome problems (with aquatic weeds).

The Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District benefited directly from Dr. Weldon's knowledge. From his experimental work, it was determined that diquat would kill water lettuce. Nothing else used by the F.C.D. previously would accomplish this. The district recognized that he was also an important part of the research team working to control hydrilla.

It has been reported that \$17 in benefits are being realized in returns for every dollar invested in the work of the Plantation Field Laboratory. Dr. Weldon was one of the outstanding scientists there.—**R. P. BLAKELEY**, chairman, Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District.



Missouri Botanical Garden's twin centers complex is the first of the projects made possible by the successful \$3 million fund campaign this year. The Library-Herbarium is at right; the educational center at left. The 50,000 sq. ft. two-level building was designed by Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum.

DuBois Chemicals Announces DuIN for Non-Crop Areas

A new efficacious liquid weed and grass killer named DuIN has been announced by DuBois Chemicals, division of W. R. Grace & Co.

DuIN is a soil sterilant suited for non-cropland areas, such as industrial sites, school, parking lots, cemeteries, bridges, along fence and pipelines.

DuIN has a no-drift additive, says DuBois, to safeguard nearby grass or ornamentals. Weeds turn brown in two to five hours. Dosage is one to four gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. For more details, circle (720) on the reply card.