

Pesticide Legislation — Just Where Are We Headed

HARD NEWS on pesticide legislation is right now in a lull period. Public hearings before both House and Senate committees in Congress have ended—for the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971. Debate on the floor of Congress is not as yet scheduled.

Of the deluge of bills submitted on most every conceivable phase of the current pesticide hassle, only the one major piece of legislation — H.R. 4152 (the House version) and S-745 (Senate) — seems certain of serious congressional consideration this year. No other Federal pesticide bills show promise of being recalled from committee.

But this one major bill, almost sure to be passed (with amendments) this year or in the foreseeable future — the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971 — has the backing of most segments of the pesticide industry, (with suggested changes), including both manufacturers and users. Even many of the ecology and environmentalist groups support major aspects of the bill.

In brief, this Bill (H.R. 4152 and S-745) revises the current Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and substitutes stronger pesticide controls in a number of areas.

For example, the changes would (1) designate some pesticides for general use, (2) limit some to use by licensed professionals only, and (3)

limit others for use by permit only. Further the Bill places great discretion as to pesticide use in the hands of the Administrator of the new Environmental Protection Agency.

Promising to dwarf in volume the Federal legislation are measures being considered by a number of states. A total of 48 state legislatures are in session this year. All have bills relating to pesticide use, pollution, and the environment in general before them. No judgment as to the effect these state bills will have on local pesticide use is possible at this time.

However, the most heartening aspect of the total picture is the surfacing of considerable pro-pesticide practical research. After a two-year lull, a considerable amount of practical research is coming to light. All segments of the industry seem to be pulling together solid data on which to base decisions — and which both legislators and the industry can use for the common good.

One example concerns contamination of ground water and has been released by North Carolina State University. In this pioneering study on the movement of DDT and toxaphene in surface water, some so-called “surprises” were evident. The N.C. study showed: (1) less environmental contamination (about half) was found when DDT was used in combination with toxaphene than when DDT was used alone; (2) only small amounts of the chemicals were found outside the areas in which they had been applied; and (3) the toxaphene proved to be less persistent than originally thought, though it did pose other problems.

This study was conducted on a cotton crop, to determine movement of insecticides in runoff water. Dr. J. R. Bradley, N.C. Univ., said the crop was treated 12 times at weekly intervals. Only four percent of the DDT and one percent of the toxaphene later appeared in surface runoff water. But practically all that did move off the crop area in surface water was attached to soil particles which moved due to erosion. In short, the chemical left the field while clinging to soil particles being washed away. Dr. Bradley has pointed out that soil conservation is one tool available to prevent contamination of water by DDT and other persistent pesticides.

Another industry plus are manufacturer actions such as one just announced by Dow Chemical — the formation of an Environmental Testing Advisory Board. This board will serve as Dow's technical authority advising all functions and manage-

ment levels on effects of products and new or changed processes. It will also advise on registration requirements and on customer and public environmental safety needs.

Specifically, the Dow board will (1) establish standardized test procedures, (2) assess capabilities of both Dow and non-Dow laboratories and identify those best able to conduct specific environmentally related experiments, (3) serve as a repository for data acquired from studies conducted outside of Dow, (4) help interpret experimental results, and (5) provide advice and recommendations on such environmental testing. Chairman is Dr. Charles W. Hinman, assistant director of Corporate Research and Development. Many groups outside the industry have begun to lend support.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce for example, has taken a strong stand supporting a sane approach to legislation relating to pollution control and the environment in general. This group presents a powerful voice. President of the U.S. Chamber F. Ritter Shumway, stated that "there is a regrettable tendency in American society to search for a villain behind every problem." The Chamber message by Shumway says

simply that, "It took us years to foul our environment, and it is going to take us years to clean it up. In the process, we must take great care to avoid creating new problems even bigger than the ones we are trying to solve.

"Extremism in any cause, however noble, usually provokes a counterreaction. The environmentalist cause is a good one. I would hate to see it discredited and forgotten by the American people because of immoderate conduct on the part of some overzealous crusaders who are more adept at generating emotions

than in digging out facts."

Meanwhile, the EPA is continuing its "administrative review" of DDT, 2,4,5-T, aldrin and dieldrin, concerning present labels. These evaluations are not connected to legislation. The EPA has authority to issue registrations and lift bans if deemed advisable by the agency itself. Thus, solid data which can be made available by the industry — including users, manufacturers, researchers, etc. — will without doubt have a bearing on Federal regulatory agencies, of which the EPA is now the foremost.

NEW 72" AND 90"

TERRAIN KING FLAIL MOWERS

The cutter with the
"Quick Change" Knives

The knives in Terrain King's new Flail Mower can be changed without tools — from a selection that tailors the Flail Mower to your exact requirements. And the knives are reversible for extended service life.

Extra heavy duty bearings and rugged frame and roller contribute to long, trouble-free life.

The Flail Mower is especially safe for the operator, pedestrians and property. Guards for both the drive line and the gear box are standard. The rotor enclosure and a heavy flap type deflector positively control flying debris.

The Flail Mower adjusts easily for cutting heights from 1-1/4" to 7". It is available in lift or pull models, in 72" and 90" cutting widths.

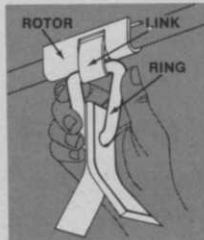
Many of your mowing needs fall easily within the Terrain King Flail Mowers capabilities. The Terrain King One Complete Mowing System, comprising a wide selection of single unit Rotary Mowers, the 15' and 25' Wide-Swath Rotary Mowers, the versatile Slopemower* and the unique RAIL-BIRD®, can handle the rest.

What's The Difference

Part of the trouble that we're having today in understanding the pesticide situation is that we don't understand the language being used. Let's get a couple of terms straight; they are CANCELLATION and SUSPENSION.

CANCELLATION — means that the procedure in section 4C of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is enforced. Section 4C reads that the Secretary of Agriculture (now its Administrator is EPA) may refuse to register a pesticide. He informs the manufacturer of this and the manufacturer has 30 days after receiving the notice to file objections. If he files objections, a committee is appointed to study the pesticide in detail. Eventually a decision is made by the administrator. **In the meantime, the pesticide in question may continue to be used.**

SUSPENSION — means the pesticide in question cannot be used.



Engler Manufacturing Corporation

4444 Center Street, Dept.: WT-6
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 869-9261

*Slopemower and RAILBIRD are trade marks of Astron Corporation, a subsidiary of Engler Manufacturing Corporation.