

Illinois Spray Law Discussed At Conference

Nearly 100 agriculture chemicals and equipment dealers and suppliers, industry representatives and agricultural leaders attended the Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Herbicide Conference in late February. The program was jointly sponsored by regional dealers and the plant industries department of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Supplier and dealer exhibits were a part of the conference.

Highlights included: updating Illinois Custom Spray Law regulations, by Juett C. Hogancamp of the Illinois Department of Agriculture's plant industries division; a progress report on the Illinois Pollution Control Board proposals for plant nutrient standards, by John Allin, a board member from Chicago; and some suggestions from an area attorney, Dayton Thomas, on keeping out of trouble in handling and using pesticide chemicals.

Provisions of the 1972 Custom Spray Law in Illinois, first revision since the initial regulations were enacted in 1966, cover uses of four main pesticides and provide for two kinds of licenses—the spray operators license and the spray applicators license. It also requires custom applicators and operators to post a \$3,000 performance bond.

Hogancamp noted exceptions to licensing. Exempt from the provisions are: farmers who do their own pesticide spraying as well as for two other persons; power companies and railroads who use their own employees for spraying; certain tree experts spraying trees and shrubs; and pest control operators treating buildings and home sites for insect and rodent pests.

After reviewing briefly the functions of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, Allin presented a progress report on the board's activities toward setting standards for plant nutrient usages in agriculture.

The board, one of three agencies set up under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, is responsible for setting pollution standards, judging violations, and granting variances.

Allin said the board does not expect to concern itself with regulating pesticides because these are subject to other controls.

Possibilities of negligence suits and credit collections are two areas where dealers, handlers and custom operators dealing with agricultural chemicals can run into difficulties. Suggestions to these people for

"keeping out of jail" were provided by Dayton Thomas, a young Shawneetown, Ill., lawyer and assistant state's attorney, an agriculture college graduate who also has been a farmer and salesman of agricultural chemicals.

He said the Illinois Custom Spray Law provisions are not so stringent that competition between dealers and operators will not provide self-policing. The performance bond required for licensed custom spray operators does not cover negligence.

To avoid negligence suits the dealer and his employees must know

the product thoroughly, read the container labels carefully and abide by the instructions.

Thomas advised dealers to have adequate insurance to cover possible damages and to seek legal counsel immediately if complaints arise.

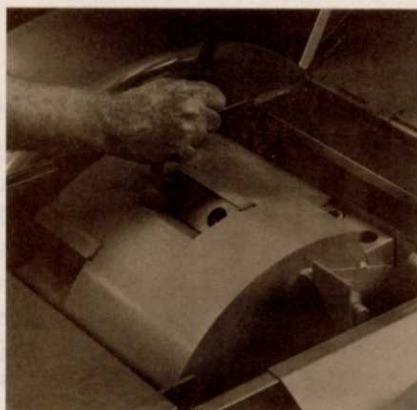
Other program discussions included attention to new developments in chemical spray application methods to reduce drift problems and improve coverage for pest control. Ralph Jourdan of Hahn, Inc., Evansville, Indiana, spoke about distribution patterns with flood-type spray nozzles.

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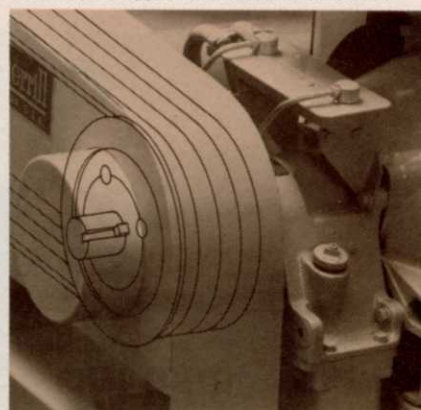


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