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# Government News

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EPA Administrator Russell E. Train has notified 4,100 pesticide producers, formulators, distributors and registrants that EPA will soon be initiating an auditing program to examine selected toxicity test reports. He said it was the industry's responsibility to insure that all data submitted in support of registration are complete, accurate and valid.

The federal quarantine for imported fire ant has been amended to extend regulated areas in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. James O. Lee, deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, said this action was necessary because the imported fire ant has spread to new areas in the seven states. Pest-risk articles---such as soil and used soil-moving equipment---must be inspected, treated if necessary, and certified free of pests by APHIS or state agricultural inspectors. The amendment puts movement restrictions for the first time on all or part of the following counties: Colbert and Lauderdale, Ala.; Calhoun and Miller, Ark.; Barrow, Burke, Clarke, Forsyth, Greene, and McDuffie, Ga.; Lenoir, N. C.; McCormick and Newberry, S.C.; Bee, Bell, Blanco, Bowie, Camp, Falls, Freestone, Gillespie, Jim Wells, Milam and Refugio, Tex.

Scientists at the Georgia Institute of Technology will study solar heat collectors and storage systems under a cooperative agreement with the USDA. Under the agreement terms, the Georgia scientists will have one year and \$39,499 to design, build and evaluate several solar collector and storage systems using a rock-bed system to store heat for use in heating greenhouses, farm buildings or rural residences. USDA's Agricultural Research Service will sponsor the study with funds from the Energy Research and Development Administration.

EPA has asked for ideas and comments from the public on ways to address the problem posed by contamination of drinking water supplies by organic chemicals. In an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, EPA says interested people should submit written data, views or arguments to the Agency's Office of Water Supply (WH-550), Criteria and Standards Division, 401 M. Street, SW., Washington, D. C. 20460.

Scientists at Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Prosser, will seek controls for the black vine weevil, a serious grape pest, under a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS) will provide \$5,000 for the 18-month study. The scientists plan to evaluate the effectiveness of carbofuran on the weevils. Several treatments using various strengths of carbofuran will be tested. Samples of treated grapes, juice and pomace will be taken for later evaluation for residues and the effects of flavor. Dr. W. W. Cone, an entomologist at the university, is the principal investigator and Billy A. Butt, ARS entomologist, Yakima, Wash., will represent ARS.