

Tree chemical's safety doubted

Hoedads call for new Thiram study

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A study initiated by the Oregon Workmen's Compensation Board (WCB) on the safety of the chemical Thiram has drawn criticism from a Eugene-based reforestation cooperative, the Hoedads.

The study, completed several months ago by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the direction of the WCB, reported the use of Thiram as a chemical repellent was safe and could continue.

According to David Straton of the Hoedads, the WCB report failed to meet two safety requirements established by the 1975 Oregon Legislature for the use of Thiram.

The chemical, used as repellent for newly planted trees, must be freed from serious health and safety hazards and

danger to any health must be offset by proper precautions, Straton explained.

The requirements were part of a bill sponsored by the Hoedads which has governed the use of Thiram since it was passed two years ago by the state legislature.

State Attorney General Jim Redden said the requirements haven't been met, Straton said, but Thiram is still in use.

According to Straton, Thiram is used mainly to spray young trees in nurseries that will be used for reforestation. Although the State department of agriculture has lifted the registration of Thiram, some reforested areas are still being sprayed with the chemical, he said.

The WCB's report on the NIOSH study has drawn the most fire from the Hoedads because it is supposedly based on inadequate data, Straton explained.

The WCB, which maintains continuing jurisdiction over the chemical, must take

into account any new evidence that Thiram may be harmful, Straton said.

"The WCB report didn't satisfy the requirements because the study didn't satisfy the data that they needed to draw the conclusions that Thiram is safe for use," he said.

A new study should be made, Straton explained, that would satisfy the safety requirements with new data.

"We are of the opinion that if the WCB files a new report, then it should be based on new information and not just a rewrite of the old material," he said.

"If the WCB comes to any new conclusions they should be from a new study because there are some conclusions that just can't be drawn from the old information."

Five areas of study should be made in a new report, Straton said. The areas include the effects of Thiram on birth defects among forest workers and the

effects on the nervous system as a copper inhibition.

"The fact that the new report is not adequate isn't anyone's fault, there just needs to be more study. I would want the WCB, though, to say in public that they will use new information in the new study," Straton said.

The burden of proof is now on the industries using the chemical, he explained. "If they aren't willing to make a new study then they don't think their chemical is worth it."

If a new study shows Thiram is harmless, Straton said, the Hoedads will accept that decision.

Two studies already completed have labeled Thiram both dangerous and useless, Straton said. The U.S. Forest Service has discontinued Thiram use because they found it to be useless. A University study showed the chemical to be dangerous and recommended that its use be stopped.

Cornell team studies women in trade unions

By SHIRLEY KRAUS
Of the Emerald

The attention given women by trade unions and the problems women face when dealing with them were outlined in a lecture given by Alice Cook, professor emerita of industrial and labor relations at Cornell University yesterday.

Cook and two colleagues are working on a project researching the problems of European working women, in hopes of finding information that could help working women in the United States.

"The ideal role of trade unions,"

she said, "would be to be aware of the special problems of women in every stage, particularly in training opportunities."

Concentrating on trade unions in five foreign countries, Cook said she feels their main function is to "bargain collectively for improvement of working conditions." But she asked if trade unions pay attention to women and their needs.

Cook chose four unions in each country the team researched — England, Germany, Sweden and Austria. Three of the unions represented mostly women and the other one represented mostly men with female membership increasing.

Four main points were considered in each union: the degree to which special programs to include women in trade unions were in effect; the types of integration methods that were evident in trade unions; the ways bargaining reflected the needs of women and how trade unions interacted with government.

The most responsive country, according to Cook, was Sweden. "Swedes are providing a vast variety of programs for mature persons, most of whom are women," she said, adding that Sweden has taken the position that the increasing number of women workers is permanent and it is the society's

responsibility to provide for their needs.

Despite this, Cook also found that women make up the bulk of the low-wage earners in all countries. However, only a 13 per cent difference exists between low-wage level and the high-wage level.

Cook and her colleagues have been researching this project for one and a half years, and hope to be done by this November. They have one more country to research, either Belgium or Israel.

The project is being funded by the German Marshall Funds.



Alice Cook

Bone marrow, connective tissue okayed for meat processors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Meat processors could add finely ground bits of bone and odd scraps of meat to hot dogs, salami and other processed meat under a new proposal recently announced by the Agriculture Department.

Last year, USDA gave interim approval for the use of what then was called "mechanically deboned meat." But it cancelled the approval and backed off plans to allow it permanently after a consumer group obtained a court order against the practice.

Assistant Sec. Carol Foreman said the new proposal incorporates tougher restrictions, including prominent labeling on products so consumers know what they are getting.

"I expect it will be controversial," she told a news conference. "But if people are adequately in-

formed as to the nature of the product, they can make a rational choice on whether or not to buy it.

The salvaged meat and bone

mixture is now called "tissue from ground bone" instead of mechanically deboned meat, a term used by the meat industry, she said.



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