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AVITROL 1973

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The Federal Registration for Avitrol to be used in standing field corn restricts use to application under supervision of Governmental agencies trained in bird control. The majority of current Avitrol labels state, "For use by or under supervision of government agencies or pest control operators. Not for sale to the public." This slight difference has already caused much discussion and the matter isn't resolved yet. There are different interpretations of this statement. Also for crops the material is only registered for field corn. There is a need for the material to be registered for sweet corn and sunflowers, although I do not believe the latter were grown as widely in Ohio in 1973 as in the past few years.

In order to publicize Avitrol in an effort to make it known to every farmer in Ohio and Michigan, news releases were prepared and released to each county agent as well as to aerial applicators. Also, a tape was made on the Avitrol program for use by county agricultural agents on their weekly radio broadcasts.

Avitrol brochures were provided to each county agent and to other outlets in the agricultural community. Anyone requesting information on Avitrol received information on how to get involved in the program, Avitrol brochures, names of aerial applicators, and an Avitrol fact sheet.

In previous years it was customary for the farmer to send the application for participation to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Also the Branch of Population Management assisted the aerial applicators in the preparation of their maps and indicated the number of passes to be made over each field. In 1973 the main effort was to certify the aerial applicators with the following criteria:

1. Must be licensed under appropriate State pesticide regulations and Federal and State aeronautical regulations as applicable.
2. Must have been instructed by Branch of Population Management personnel on:
 - a. Characteristics of Avitrol as a toxicant.
 - b. Rate and method of bait application.
 - c. Safety factors, such as bait dilution and placement within the field.
 - d. Label requirements.
3. Must sign statement indicating that they have read and understand the registration label, and that they will apply the Avitrol only in accordance with that label.
4. Must submit to the State Supervisor for approval a list of applicants,

including such information as name, address, phone number, number of fields in program, and location of fields. An aerial photograph, with each field proposed for treatment clearly outlined, must also be submitted.

5. Must route all bait orders through the State Supervisor for approval.
6. Must allow inventory of Avitrol bait or examination of records by Federal or State officials.
7. Must agree not to dispose of excess or damaged bait without the permission of the State Supervisor.

From this point on all contact was between the farmer and the aerial applicator. The farmer supplied to the aerial applicator the following an aerial photograph with fields to be treated clearly outlined, further locating fields on the photograph by indicating names or numbers of near-by roads, notification to the Avitrol applicator when corn is ready to treat (entering milk stage).

The bait distribution for Region III was as follows: All bait was ordered by the applicators from the Rodent Control Fund after an "agreement and request for animal damage control bait" form was filled out and submitted to the State Supervisor for approval. This is necessary for all forms of toxic baits shipped from Lafayette (the Bait Mixing Station for the Rodent Control Fund). To facilitate distribution and to prevent an applicator from needing bait and its not being available, 5,000 pounds were shipped under a contingency plan. All of this bait was distributed to the applicators. Each of the applicators also ordered a sizeable amount of bait. No problems were encountered with the handling of the bait.

The weather for the 1973 Avitrol program was ideal with several continuous clear days. Nine thousand acres were treated in Ohio and 5,000 were treated in Michigan, for a total of 14,000 acres treated. Problems encountered were:

1. Aerial applicators not submitting requested information until contacted by Bureau personnel.
2. Farmers having some difficulty in contacting applicators.

Suggested improvements for program for 1974 are:

1. Stricter compliance with certification criteria.
2. Possibility of local distribution, when supervisory level can be maintained.