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STATUS OF STARLICIDE

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Starlicide is described as a slow-acting avicide for the control of starlings and blackbirds around livestock and poultry operations. The active ingredient is 3-chloro-p-toluidine hydrochloride which has been identified by the Denver Research Center of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as DRC-1339.

A casual review of information about this bird control material suggests the following paradoxes:

The use of the chemical in bird control appears to be covered by a patent, but the licensor wishes to remain anonymous.

The licensee, which produces and sells the commercial material, seems unwilling to discuss the product.

Let me hasten to point out that these apparent incongruities can be attributed to numerous factors which range from the emotional response of some segments of the public, to the cold-blooded review of budgets and profit and loss statements by businessmen in our free enterprise system.

The potential value of DRC-1339 as a blackbird and starling toxicant has been reviewed in detail. (1) Additional information is becoming available from California. At least a part of this new information will be discussed by other speakers at this conference.

Registrations have been granted to the Ralston Purina Company of St. Louis. Very similar registrations have also been issued to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. There are two products. One product is a pellet containing 1% active ingredient which is ordinarily diluted with 10 parts of a similar untreated pelleted poultry or other animal feed. The Ralston Purina Company recently stated:

". . . we will continue to market our 10 lb. of concentrate material which is to be diluted with 100 lbs. of a clean pelleted poultry ration.

"Also, this fall we'll be introducing a 50 lb. ready to use product. It seems that we have had a few complaints on the user having to actually dilute the concentrate material, so we have elected to distribute a product that's already diluted and ready for use."

"Both of these products will be distributed through Purina dealers. At the present time we have registration in some 36 states and don't plan to seek any further clearances at this time."

"As to pricing the product, our 10 lb. of concentrate will retail for about \$8.50. The 50 lb. complete product will retail for about \$12.65." (2)

Regarding the other product which is a technical material, the Ralston Purina Company has informed me that:

"The marketing of the product Purina Starlicide Technical is not only limited by the registration within the United States Department of Agriculture, but that of the licensor granting Purina permission to produce the product. By virtue of these restrictions, we are unable to market the product except as our labeling provides." (3)

Reports of operational use of Starlicide by pest control operators are exceedingly meager. Principally this is because the product is marketed through agricultural business channels rather than those which normally supply PCO's.

REFERENCES

1. National Pest Control Association, Technical Release 10-67.
2. Personal communication July 15, 1968.
3. Personal communication July 9, 1968.

DISCUSSION:

HAYDEN: We had some question in Illinois where one PCO went to buy Starlicide from a Purina sales manager and was informed that the State Department of Conservation prohibited the sale of Starlicide to PCOs. I in turn contacted the State Conservation and they didn't know anything about it. Whether this is the sales manager's wish that he does not want to sell to PCOs or whether it's company policy I don't know. I haven't checked with the PCO yet.

SPEAR: I don't know the details of this instance, but I do believe that there has been some effort on the part of Ralston Purina to provide a kind of educational effort in connection with their sales. But to what extent this is carried out, I do not know.

JACKSON: I think the question that Ken Hayden raises has been very common. This has been a material with a great deal of confusion surrounding it; you get many answers when you ask questions.

SEUBERT: Phil, what's the status of the registration of Starlicide in the Northeast?

SPEAR: Bill Hickling, that hasn't changed, has it?

HICKLING: Yes it has. There are three states which are registered now—New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

SPEAR: Is this problem being resolved?

HICKLING: Yes.

QUESTION: Are those three the only states?

SPEAR: In the Northeast. There were 36 and we're only going to states which had feedlot operations.

QUESTION: Starlicide can only be used in poultry feedlots, can't it?

COMMENT: And it is restricted to certain months, too, because in Illinois they found Starlicide affected mourning doves.

HAYDEN: In Illinois the registration prohibits use for urban control and it can only be used between November and March.

JACKSON: This is not an uncommon restriction.

COMMENT: And it can be sold to anyone. I talked to a Purina representative and he said, "I'll sell it to anybody who wants to buy it."

LIEB: Does this material actually kill or does it repel as Avitrol does? What is the reaction?

JACKSON: This is a lethal material. It's slow-acting.

LIEB: Do you shovel them up afterwards?

JACKSON: No, they fly back to the roost and die there.

To go on to additional progress reports of a little greater length and scope—here in Ohio we have become acutely concerned with problems of encephalitis in the past few years. All of a sudden we discover all about us California encephalitis, a rather mild form but yet one of considerable concern. Peg Parsons has been very active in Ohio as a member of the State Department of Health staff, has quite literally put together the program that we have for the state, done a

commendable job on a shoestring, is a very dynamic woman; and we've asked her to explore with us today some of the aspects of encephalitis and ectoparasites. Peg.