

FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

Idaho commissioner can control herbicide use. . . Michigan to regulate soil conditioners as fertilizers

Bills to Regulate Pesticides

Economic poison control bills have been introduced in the following states:

Arkansas S171 would amend the state's Economic Poisons Act to provide that the labeling bear the month and year of manufacture of the economic poison so dated, would, with time, lose its effectiveness. The bill has since been amended, deleting this specific clause, and subsequently passed and signed by the governor.

Idaho S119, recently passed by the legislature is to control the use of herbicides. It gives the state commissioner of agriculture power to regulate the use of herbicides to prevent injury to crops. He can establish regulations by administrative order following hearings, and, by regulation, prohibit the use of herbicides in designated areas.

Economic Poisons

Michigan S1180 would amend the state's Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to increase the registration fee for manufacturers from \$5.00 for each brand up to the first 10 brands and \$2.00 for each additional, to a straight \$10 per brand.

Fertilizer Controls

Fertilizer control laws have been re-examined in the various legislatures again this year. The Michigan bill reported here is an interesting example of the consideration which has recently been given to the problem of soil conditioners.

California H2535 would establish a tax of 10 cents per ton on sales of agricultural minerals to nonregistered persons. The seller of the material pays the tax. There is no tax in cases where the material is sold to a registered fertilizer formulator or dealer. Material containing more than 5% plant food is classified as a fertilizer and the tax then is 15 cents per ton.

Idaho H175 is similar to H19 previously introduced. The requirement for total phosphoric acid content on labels is abolished and a statement of minimum percentage and source of available phosphoric acid as P_2O_5 is substituted. In addition, the content of any other material for which benefit is claimed must be stated.

Indiana H65 is a proposed fertilizer control law. The act would be administered by the state chemist. Closely following the model state act, a registration fee \$5.00 for each grade or brand and an inspection fee of 25 cents per ton to be paid by the distributor.

Michigan H218 modifies the existing fertilizer law by including soil conditioners and trace element sources within the definition of fertilizer. The sale of soil conditioners is regulated in that all claims must be substantiated and accepted by the Director of Agriculture. It also establishes an inspection fee of 8 cents per ton.

North Carolina S294 is designed to establish safe handling standards for storage and distribution of anhydrous ammonia and ammonia solutions intended for liquid fertilizer operations.

Rhode Island H624 closely follows the model state fertilizer control bill. It increases registration fee to \$10 for each fertilizing ingredient contained or claimed to exist in the product and establishes tonnage reports and a fee of 10 cents per ton.

Pure Food Bills

The recent discussion of chemical additives is reflected in the interest of the various state legislatures which have considered this problem in its relation to food standards during current sessions.

California A2526 would amend the sections of the State Agricultural Code to follow the FDA in permissible limits for spray residues. In addition it would give the State Agricultural Director the right of inspection of food processing establishments.

Ohio H257 follows the general provisions of the uniform model state food bill with two important exceptions. There are no provisions or standards for imitation foods and the question of chem-

ical additives is considered. The standard for chemical additives is contained in the statement that the unauthorized use of chemical preservatives is prohibited and the standard for authorization is to be the safety of a chemical additive as determined by the safety of the food on which it is used.

Oregon H420 has been substituted for H304 which was reported previously. The new bill will establish standards of identity for bread and bread products. It directs the State Department of Agriculture to establish standards which conform with those of the USDA and FDA.

Utah H27, as originally presented, would have banned antiseptics and preservatives in food except salt, vinegar, and some other condiments. The bill has now been modified so that the standards of food additives generally conform to those of the FDA. When a processor intends to use an additive which has not formerly been used in food he must notify the State Board of Agriculture 90 days before the intended use and supply satisfactory evidence that the material is safe. If the board does not approve the proposed use of the food additive it can issue a stop order and conduct hearings on the question. The law includes in the definition of adulterated foods those which contain saccharine and other artificial sweetening agents.

Tax Exemptions

Another bill for the exemption of agricultural materials from state sales taxes is reported here, the general program of exemptions of agricultural materials is now followed in a majority of the states.

Oklahoma H559 would exempt fertilizers, seed, feed, and economic poisons from the state sales tax.

USDA Sets Import Quotas for Tung

Import quotas on tung oil and tung nuts have been announced by the Department of Agriculture. The quotas to limit imports between the period of April 8 and June 30, 1953, were established to prevent unnecessary expenditure under the government price support program. The action was taken under the defense production Act of 1950 which directs the Secretary of Agriculture to limit imports on commodities which might interfere with orderly storing and marketing.