

Business Newsletter . . .

AMMONIA EXPANSION AND PRICES

Cooperative Farm Chemicals Association will add ammonia capacity and a urea plant at its Lawrence, Kans., facilities. Ammonia plant will be capable of turning out 100 tons a day, with a synthesis loop of 200-tons-per-day capacity for still further expansion in the future. Urea plant will have capacity of 30 tons a day, the output to be used in urea-ammonium nitrate solutions. Also included in the expansion is 15,000 tons of anhydrous ammonia storage. Chemical Construction will design the plants, using its patented gas reform furnace for gas production. Completion is scheduled for next August.

On the West Coast, Valley Nitrogen announces it has completed financing and will soon announce plans for ammonia plant construction.

Reacting to Valley Nitrogen's plans, Best Fertilizers, which will operate 120-ton-a-day ammonia plant now going up in California's Central Valley, says it will sell ammonia at \$63 a ton during 1959's off-season (August to December). Current price in the West is about \$90 a ton.

PESTICIDE EXPANSION

Stauffer is building a plant at Richmond, Calif., to turn out Eptam herbicide in multi-million pound quantities. Plant is expected to be operating in January. Company will sell Eptam (di-n-propylthiocarbamate) in emulsifiable liquid and granule forms.

For its Trithion insecticide-miticide Stauffer has doubled capacity at Henderson, Nev., by installing more reactors and by process innovations for making both finished product and feedstock intermediates. Stauffer says demand for Trithion during the past season was greater than it could supply from the plant (which went on stream in April). It expects new capacity to "permit more liberal allocation of Trithion" in 1959.

Dow has started shipping grain fumigants from a new terminal in Kansas City. Operated for Dow by Inter-State Oil Co., the terminal has blending, packaging, warehousing, and quality control accommodations for space and liquid fumigants for the grain trade. Until this terminal was completed, Dow shipped grain fumigants into this area from plants in Michigan and Texas. (For more on grain fumigants, see page 723.)

NEW PRODUCTS

Spencer has introduced two new fertilizer solutions for mixed fertilizer granulation, called Spensol 430 (20-68-6) and Spensol 440 (22-66-6). The solutions, says Spencer, have low salting-out temperatures (14° for the 430 and -17° for the 440) and they also feature low free-ammonia content. These properties, Spencer claims, will permit granulators to save money—as much as \$1.97 per ton of granulated 12-12-12, for instance. Biggest saving is in the amount of sulfuric acid needed—low free ammonia means less sulfuric to tie it up. The low salting-out temperature makes the new solutions practical for use by mixers in all parts of the country, regardless of climate, Spencer figures, pointing out that last winter made it clear, even in the South, that a margin of safety in salting-out temperature is important. (Numbers in parentheses following each solution name indicate the percentages of ammonia, ammonium nitrate, and urea in the total nitrogen content.)

Du Pont has added four new products to its garden chemicals line—two weedkillers, a tomato and rose fungicide, and a wettable powder

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insecticide-fungicide combination for use in hose sprayers. One of the weedkillers is based on neburon and is to be used against chickweed; the other is based on amine methyl arsonates for crabgrass control. The fungicide, Manzate, is based on maneb; and the combination insecticide-fungicide contains methoxychlor and zineb. These products bring Du Pont's garden chemicals line to a total of 31 items.

PACKERS PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR CHEMICAL USE

An unusual example of the premiums growers can receive from use of chemicals for higher quality products is seen in the move of Rath Packing Co., which will pay up to \$1.00 a head to cattlemen for treating their cattle with systemic grub killers. Dow's Trolene and Chemagro's Co-Ral are the chemicals involved. Rath calls plan experimental, will start the program in December and continue it until May 1959. Other midwestern packers, including Bookey Packing of Des Moines, are considering similar arrangements. Advantages to the packers are: healthier animals, less hide damage, and reduced trimming costs.

MERGER POSSIBILITY

There may be a merger between Smith-Douglass, Inc., and Wilson & Toomer Co. Willard R. Ashburn, Smith-Douglass president, says stockholders of the two fertilizer manufacturers have been discussing such a move but that no decision has yet been reached. Wilson & Toomer, with six plants in Florida and Georgia, also produce pesticides. Smith-Douglass, with 11 plants in Florida, Texas, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, and Minnesota, produces feed phosphates as well as fertilizer.

RESEARCH EXPANSIONS

H. J. Heinz Co. formally opens its new research center in Pittsburgh on Oct. 12. The eight-story glass and aluminum structure will house executive offices of the company as well as seven laboratories and a pilot plant. At the new center, Heinz scientists will carry out quality control programs and research on variety improvement, sterilization, packaging, recipe modification, and taste and appearance testing.

Diamond Alkali will build a campus-style research center on an 800-acre tract south of Painesville, Ohio. It will supplement existing facilities at Fairport, Ohio. Company says its plan hinges directly on premise that location of Ohio's north-south throughway will remain as now planned. Before construction can start, a zoning revision will be necessary. First stage of the 10-year plan involves building of several units for the central research and development department at a cost of \$2 to \$3 million.

PATENTS

Heyden Newport now has a patent (No. 2,848,470) on its trichlorobenzoic acid herbicide. Specifically patented are mixtures of trichlorobenzoic acid isomers containing the 2,3,6-isomer. The patent notes that potency is attributed to synergism between the 2,3,6-isomer and other isomers.

Roberts Chemicals, Inc., has been held in contempt of court for violating an injunction designed to stop infringement of the patent under which Rohm & Haas sells Dithane fungicide. The court held that Roberts has sold nabam, amobam, and zineb for uses which infringed the Rohm & Haas patent; such sales were forbidden in an injunction handed down on Oct. 11, 1957. The matter has been referred to a special master for ascertainment of damages.

LOWER PRICES FOR METHYLAMINES

Rohm & Haas has shaved 3 cents per pound off the prices of mono- and dimethylamine, widely used as pesticide intermediates. Company says it is passing along savings resulting from its new facilities for methylamine raw materials.

SALES TOTALS

American Potash Institute says the eight American producers and importers of potash delivered 5% less potash for agricultural use in the year ended June 1958 than they did in the previous fertilizer year. The total was 3,392,569 tons (1,978,636 on a K₂O basis). Deliveries for nonagricultural use amounted to 119,260 on a K₂O basis, a 3% decline.

The Agricultural Ammonia Institute says sales of anhydrous ammonia for farming increased 14% in the first seven months of 1958 compared with the similar period in 1957. Two thirds of the dealers surveyed by AAI reported a business increase during the period.

LARGEST SHIPMENT OF SOLUTIONS?

What Sohio claims was the largest single shipment of agricultural nitrogen solutions for the year left Sohio's Lima, Ohio, plant last month, bound for Aylco Liquid Fertilizer Co. and its dealers in central Illinois. The 400,000-gal. shipment required a 40-tankcar train and 11 tank trucks, enough nitrogen to produce 3 million bushels of wheat.

MEETINGS

Southeastern Fertilizer Conference, Atlanta Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 29 and 30.

Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Hotel New Yorker, New York, Jan. 7, 8, and 9.

National Aviation Trades Association, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Nov. 12, 13, and 14.

American Oil Chemists' Society, Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Oct. 20-22.

Citrus Processing Conference, Citrus Building, Winter Haven, Fla., Oct. 7.

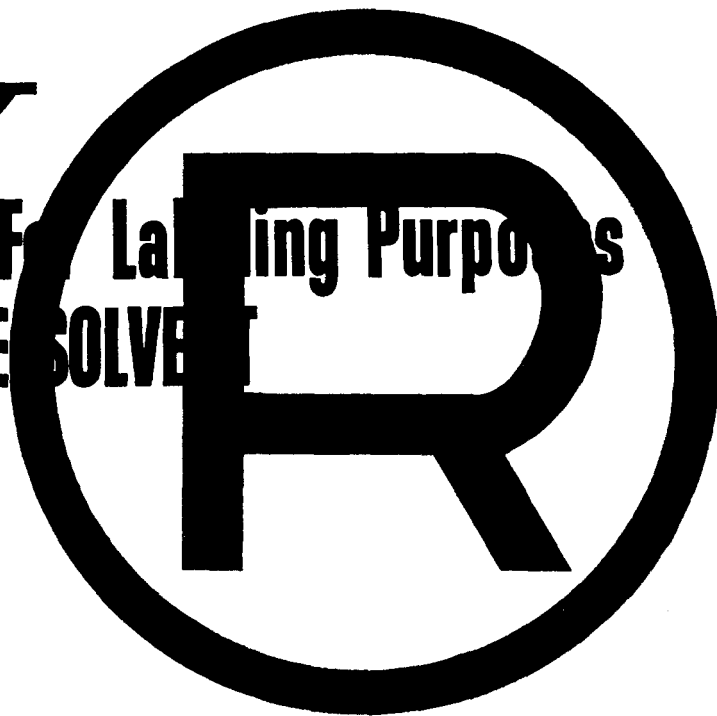
Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, Oct. 13, 14, and 15. To be followed by American Feed Control Officials (Oct. 14-16), American Fertilizer Control Officials, and American Pesticide Control Officials (Oct. 15-18).

- New chemicals are being found that can retard plant growth or speed it up; much basic knowledge gained in the process (page 719).
- Every possible angle must be used to control pesticides inventory (page 721).
- Grain fumigants—a thriving, growing part of the pesticides industry (page 723).
- Pesticides sales in the 1958 season were about the same as last year (page 728).

Spotlight

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Research Newsletter . . .

THYROID BLOCKING AGENT FOR FEED ADDITIVE

A new type of feed additive is getting attention from researchers at the University of Arizona and Iowa State. A thyroid blocking agent, the chemical is 1-methyl 2-mercaptoimidazole, which Eli Lilly makes under the trade name Tapazole. It is used in human medicine for patients afflicted with over-secretion of the thyroid gland. At Iowa State, Wise Burroughs has obtained average feed savings of 7% with cattle fed 600 mg. daily, with no reduction in carcass quality in preliminary experiments. When Tapazole and stilbestrol are both fed, results seem to be additive. University of Arizona and Eli Lilly researchers are working on feeding of sheep with Tapazole—with encouraging results. Many questions remain to be answered before farm use, however—such as optimum feeding levels, long-term effects, toxicity, residues, and the like. But this could be the next new product from Eli Lilly's agricultural and industrial products division (see page 790).

MORE BOLL WEEVIL RESEARCH

A comprehensive research hunt for better means to control the boll weevil may be in the offing. Congress gave USDA \$125,000 to spend on boll weevil research in fiscal '59. First step is appointment by Secretary Benson of three-man working group to consider what stepped up research program would need. Reasons behind the boll weevil concern—cost of control is mounting; the insect has developed some resistance to certain insecticides; and more intense cotton cultivation has resulted in boll weevil build-up. Members of the Benson-appointed group are: H. G. Johnston of National Cotton Council, Edward R. McGovern of USDA's State Experiment Stations Division; and Edward F. Knipling, USDA's director of entomology research. They expect to spend about four months on their deliberations.

CHLOROPHYLL PROTECTION

Chlorophyll included in formulations of cycloheximide (Acti-dione) may overcome the problem of phytotoxicity without reducing the anti-biotic's fungicidal activities. Work at University of California (see Plant Disease Reporter of Sept. 15.) shows that with 1000 p.p.m. of water-soluble chlorophyll and 10 p.p.m. Acti-dione, two varieties of bean suffered no phytotoxicity and remained safe from powdery mildew. There was no evidence of any systemic effect.



- Rumen fluid of cows hydrolyzes many organophosphates; amino parathion, diethyl phosphoric acid, and phosphorothioic acid were major parathion metabolites excreted (page 740).
- Colorimetric method of determining microgram quantities of U. S. Rubber's Phygon fungicide is based on its reaction with dimethylamine to produce an intense orange (page 746).
- Terraclor does not translocate from soil to any of the crops whose edible portions grow above the ground (page 747).
- Chromatography and morphological response can be used to tell whether translocation takes place with plant growth regulators that are not available in radioactively tagged forms (page 751).