

# Business Newsletter . . .

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## ANOTHER NITROGEN PLANT

North Dakota Nitrogen is a new firm that will build a nitrogen plant at Bismarck, N. D. Plant will be built by Chemical & Industrial Corp. It will produce synthesis gas by gasifying lignite, and turn out some 150,000 to 170,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizers annually. Officers of the firm are: Tom Kleppe, president; Tom Leach, vice president; T. W. Sette, treasurer; and Clifford Jansonius, secretary. All are from Bismarck. On the board are Herbert H. Hamilton, president of C&I, Harry Davis, Robert Taft, Jr., and Lawrence Davis, all of Cincinnati.

## PRICE SLASHES

Shell and Calspray have had to follow the ammonia price cut Best Fertilizers instituted in September. Shell and Calspray cut prices down to \$65 a ton, 25% below the previous price of \$88. Best previously lowered its off-season price for next year to \$63. Both Shell and Calspray say their moves are purely defensive and necessary to compete against Best. All three are unhappy with Valley Nitrogen Producers, which will build an ammonia plant, despite the industry's overcapacity.

Monsanto has cut the price of ethyl and methyl parathion to 84 cents a pound. Ethyl was \$1.36 a pound and the methyl product was \$1.12. Company says prices were cut in an effort to broaden markets and obtain larger sales volume. Process advantages and large volume economies in the new plant also helped to reduce cost. Company says parathion market is now some 4.5 million pounds a year, most of which is used on cotton. Company hopes price cut will stabilize the market, benefit formulators, who have been "whiplashed by recent fluctuations in methyl parathion prices . . ."

## FERTILIZER EXPANSION

Canadian Industries, Ltd., officially opened its new granulated fertilizer plant at Chatham, Ont., recently. CIL's engineering department and A. J. Sackett & Sons Co., Baltimore, designed the plant. Two similar plants are to be ready for CIL later this year—one at Hamilton and the other at Ingersoll, Ont. Output of the plant is to be packaged in polyethylene bags.

## IMPROVED SALES AND PROFITS

In a late-season survey of 80 companies in the pesticides industry, summarized at the Savannah meeting by NAC president J. V. Vernon, 46 companies reported sales higher in 1958 than 1957; 30 reported lower sales; and 4 reported no change. Of the same 80 companies, 36 reported higher profits; 34 lower profits; and 10 no change from the previous season.

## PENICK TO SERVICE PEST CONTROL OPERATORS

S. B. Penick & Co. has announced formation of a new pest control supply department, which will furnish professional pest control operators with a line of insecticides and rodenticides at competitive prices, combined with personalized service. Pesticides are to be shipped within 24 hours after order is received. Informative technical bulletins are to be part of the Penick service.

## NEW POLICIES AT TVA

TVA has instituted a new policy in the distribution of fertilizer materials. Under the new policy, a manufacturer will be able to secure

# Business Newsletter . . .

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up to 200 tons of each new material within a given fiscal year, for purposes of studying possible uses of the new materials and developing commercial formulations. This new program will operate in addition to the TVA's regular program of fertilizer materials distribution for education purposes.

Another departure at TVA is discontinuance of concentrated super (48% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) manufacture. It will focus effort instead on developing the higher-analysis super (54% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) produced with its superphosphoric acid.

## MONSANTO FILES UNDER NEW ADDITIVES LAW

Monsanto has the distinction of being first to file for a safety tolerance under the new food additives law recently passed by Congress. The petition involves an antioxidant for protecting the carotenes, xanthophylls, and vitamins E and K of dehydrated forage crops used for livestock feed. The chemical is 1,2-dihydro-6-ethoxy-2,2,4-trimethylquinoline (EMQ); the tolerance sought is 150 parts per million. FDA must accept, reject, or modify by Feb. 1. Anyone adversely affected must file objections within 30 days after FDA's announcement of its plans.

## NEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR GENERAL MILLS

General Mills is joining the trek to the suburbs, and the trend to campus-type sites, for its new multimillion-dollar research center. The facility is to be built in Golden Valley, west of Minneapolis, about 1.5 miles from the company's new general office building. Ground will be broken next spring, with the first unit to be ready for occupancy in June 1960. Final completion is expected around 1964 or 1965. The center will then house 500 scientists and associated workers. It will have about 360,000 square feet of floor area.

## VAPAM PATENT SUIT SETTLED

Stauffer and Chemical Insecticide have settled an infringement suit against the latter involving Vapam soil fumigant. Chemical Insecticide acknowledges validity of the Stauffer patent and is now subject to a permanent injunction prohibiting it from further infringement of the patent.

## GREEN PLASMA STOPPED BY FTC

FTC has charged I. G. Chemical Corp. with misrepresenting the quality of its Green Plasma, a chemical preparation for grass. Among the charges of misrepresentation are: product has not been tested by and approved by the Federal Government as claimed; false claim that it is a new scientific discovery which keeps lawns green 365 days a year with only occasional sprinkling whereas in reality it is a green dye that would be bleached by sunlight and washed out by rain in a few days; that it does not contain sufficient nutrients to be classed as a fertilizer. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 18 in Washington.

## NONCAKING AMMONIUM NITRATE ANNOUNCED BY MONSANTO

Monsanto has announced development of a dust-free, noncaking, higher-density, harder-prill ammonium nitrate fertilizer, called Lion E-2. Company says these properties are achieved in the processing and not by the addition of a coating. Bags of E-2 are said not to cake even at pressure of 600 lb./sq. in. Because of its high density, E-2 requires 20% less storage space than regular prilled nitrate. It is being manufactured at Monsanto plants in El Dorado, Ark., and Luling, La., and is available in both polyethylene and polyethylene-lined multiwall paper bags.

## CLEARANCES

FDA has approved use of Jensen-Salsbery's Diquel to ease stress in meat animals on their way to slaughter. The tranquilizer may be used to within 24 hours before slaughter.

The Canadian Food and Drug Directorate approves use of Ciba's Serpasil for use as an animal feed additive. Similar application has been made to U. S. Food and Drug Administration. A stress ameliorating drug, Serpasil (reserpine) can accelerate animal growth, improve feed efficiency, increase egg production (per hen and per pound of feed), improve egg quality, reduce feed waste, reduce cannibalism, reduce shrinkage during transit, and increase disease resistance.

Crag fly repellent has been cleared by USDA as an ingredient for livestock spray formulations on a "no residue" basis. It can be used on both dairy and feed cattle.

Canadian authorities have approved Union Carbide's Sevin for use on apples and pears. It will be pushed particularly for control of codling moth, which was widespread last year in Canada, but it can also be used to control a number of other apple and pear pests.

Hercules Powder's toxaphene has been cleared for use as a household insecticide. Now it can be used in formulations such as space sprays, aerosols, mothproofing agents, and others. Toxaphene is said to control flies, mosquitoes, gnats, ants, silverfish, bedbugs, roaches, house spiders, black carpet beetles, clothes moths, fleas, and many others.

Food and Drug Administration has established a tolerance for use of Dow's sodium o-phenylphenate to retard surface molds on cantaloupes. The tolerance is 125 p.p.m., with not more than 10 p.p.m. in the edible portion.

## MEETINGS

Conference on Mineral Nutrition of Forest Trees, Duke University, Dec. 4 and 5 (sponsored by Duke, North Carolina State College, American Forestry Association, and American Potash Institute).

Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association, Hotel Commodore, New York, Dec. 8-10.


California Weed Conference, Miramar Hotel, Santa Barbara, Jan. 20-22.

Illinois Custom Operators' Training School, Illini Union, Urbana, Jan. 28 and 29.

Colorado Agricultural Chemicals Association, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver, Jan. 29 and 30.

Distillers Feed Conference, Sheraton Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 25.

Symposium on Instrumental Methods of Analysis, Shamrock-Hilton Hotel, Houston, Tex., May 18-20.

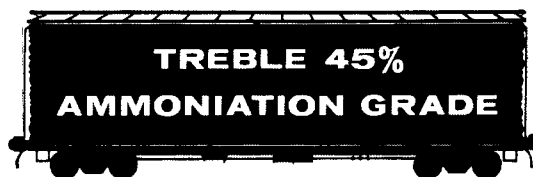
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- Animal disease control and prevention are promising agricultural uses for the nitrofurans (page 877).
  - Fertilizer industry is getting a new interest in safety because National Safety Council's program has proved successful in reducing accident frequency rate (page 878).
  - Survey shows 40% of nation's farmers believe they should have used more fertilizer in '58 (page 880).
  - Pesticide industry has potential of \$1 billion annually by 1975, if it streamlines research and business practices, and combats bad publicity with truth (page 886).

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# Research Newsletter . . .

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## RESEARCH AND EXTENSION POLICY

Take the order book out of the hands of experiment station scientists who do fundamental research, says James G. Horsfall, director of Connecticut's agricultural experiment station. Referring to extension work as the sales division of the land grant college, Dr. Horsfall said that widespread policy of making each research man do a little extension work reduces creativity remarkably. He said extension work is very important, but it is not science, and proposed that men preparing for extension work and those preparing for research careers be exposed to different regimens in the graduate schools. He commented it will probably require much work to convince state legislators that extension and research functions should be separated. He also cited as a dangerous trend the "yen to do contract research to fatten our budgets." He believes all money that comes to the colleges should be on the grant basis.

## FIELD TESTING OF BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE

University of California scientists report success in field tests of Bacillus thuriangiensis against cabbage looper and the imported cabbage-worm. They reported better kill (on a pound-for-pound basis) for the bacillus than for the DDT-toxaphene alternative. Using two to four pounds of the bacillus at an arbitrary standard level of 100 billion spores in each gram of dry material, in 30 pounds of dust per acre, they achieved 80 to 100% kill of the two cruciferous crop pests.

## PLANT DISEASE CONTROLS

Luther L. Farrar (Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station) got excellent control of smuts with gibberellic acid by spraying grain sorghum with 1000 p.p.m. at the three-leaf stage and by treating oat seed with 1000 p.p.m. He postulates that seed treatment speeds up germination, giving mycelial growth less time to infect the young plant; and that the spray stimulates plant growth, enabling the plant to outgrow the fungus. A full report is in the Nov. 15 Plant Disease Reporter.

Phytoactin is a new antibiotic from Pabst Laboratories that has shown promise in tests against mildew of pear seedlings at the Tree Fruit Experiment Station, Wenatchee, Wash. Nov. 15 Plant Disease Reporter has the report.

## NEW REGULATIONS ON SHIPMENT OF PLANT PESTS

All plant pests—not just insects and mollusks—are now to be included in regulations by USDA over importation and interstate shipment of plant pests. Among those to be regulated, whether they are for research or other purposes, are mites, nematodes, protozoa, bacteria, fungi, parasitic plants, and viruses. The new regulations were published in the Oct. 24 Federal Register.

*Spotlight*

- Compound responsible for anticholinesterase activity of Diazinon has not yet been found (page 900).
- Two alkyl phenylenediamines have potential use as antioxidants for animal feeds. Pregnant rats can tolerate levels of 0.025% and possibly as high as 0.1% (page 920).
- Bitter principles of peanuts isolated and studied (page 930).