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SPECIAL REPORT TO DAIRYMEN

Agricultural Extension Service
Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Idaho

Answers To Some Pesticide Questions*

Are pesticides necessary for food and milk production?

Yes. Our abundant supplies of wholesome foods are available to the public only through the proper use of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals.

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemicals that are used to kill pests. For example, insecticides kill insects; herbicides kill weeds; and rodenticides kill rodents.

What pesticides have been associated with milk contamination?

The chlorinated hydrocarbons; for example, aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor epoxide, DDT and its isomers, toxaphene and lindane. Other pesticides may become a problem in the future.

Why do pesticides contaminate milk?

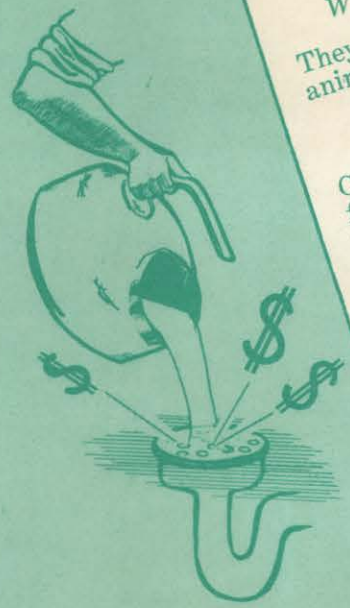
They are absorbed by animal fat. Milk contains fat and is one way the animal eliminates pesticides from its body.

How long will contaminated animals give contaminated milk?

Cases are presently known where residues have been detected in milk for 4 to 8 or more months after discontinuing the feeding of all contaminated feeds.

How does milk become contaminated?

1. By spraying animals with non-recommended pesticides, such as aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, DDT, toxaphene and lindane. 2. By using these materials in back-rubbers and vaporizers. 3. By feeding forage and concentrates which have been contaminated with these materials. 4. By allowing the animal to drink pesticide-contaminated water. 5. By using milk utensils that may have become contaminated through their use for chores other than handling milk or in milk production.



AVOID THIS LOSS

*Prepared by University of Idaho Dairy Scientist, John E. Montoure and Extension Entomologist, Roland W. Portman

more answers to pesticide questions

What precautions can be taken to prevent milk contamination?

1. Use only those dairy feeds known to be free of pesticide residues: (a) purchase only those feeds certified to be free of illegal residues **or** (b) have all non-certified feeds analyzed before they are purchased. 2. When using pesticides, follow the instructions on the container label. 3. Avoid feed and water supply contamination from pesticides application and drift deposits. Ask your neighbor to help you prevent such contamination. 4. Only use milk equipment and utensils for their intended purpose. 5. Buy only residue-free animals for herd replacement.

What should be done when insecticide residues have been found in milk?

Determine the source of contamination. Immediately discontinue the use of all contaminated feed and water. Milk from pesticide contaminated animals should be disposed of until the illegal residues have disappeared.

Where in Idaho can feed, water and milk be analyzed for pesticide contamination?

At present, there is only one commercial laboratory in Idaho which performs analyses of this kind. It is located in Boise.

What should be done with pesticide contaminated milk?

Follow the Health Department Sanitarian's instructions for disposing of contaminated milk. The State Department of Agriculture Dairy Inspector will also have these instructions. (The use of contaminated milk as animal or human food is not recommended.)

Is the 1964 Federal Pesticide Indemnity Program still in effect?

No. The termination date for application in the 1964 Federal Indemnity Program was March 1, 1965.

What is a given tolerance as applied to chemical residue?

A given tolerance is that amount of chemical residue, usually expressed in ppm (parts per million) set by FDA (Food and Drug Administration) that remains on or in a commodity at harvest and which is at least 100 times less than that amount of the chemical known to be toxic to experimental animals. For example, a 7 ppm DDT tolerance on apples means that there must be less than 7 parts of DDT to one million parts of apples figured on the weight basis.

What is a zero tolerance as applied to chemical residues?

A zero tolerance means that no amount of the pesticide chemical may remain on the raw agricultural commodity when it is offered for shipment.

Your **pesticide-free milk** is important to Idaho and the world.

IDAHO EXPORTS ANNUALLY:

35 million pounds of butter

64 million pounds of dried skimmed milk

37 million pounds of cheese

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JAMES E. KRAUS, *Director*

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