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Maintaining an Insecticide - Free Milk Supply*

Resume

Recent changes in regulations will bring an end to the old no residue or zero tolerance concept by 1970. Pesticides will then have a negligible residue tolerance or a regular residue tolerance. Negligible residue tolerances have already been established at 0.05 ppm for DDT, DDE, or TDE (on whole milk basis) for each material or any combination. Other negligible residues have also been established recently for residues of other pesticides in milk. Many current residue problems in milk stem from residues in non-commercial feeds and pesticide drift. The dairyman must be continually on guard concerning non-commercial feeds particularly peanut or soybean hay. In producing grain and forage, dairies should choose only those pesticides cleared for use on dairy farms. Residues created by drift are more difficult to control because agricultural chemical application is not regulated other than by USDA pesticide registrations and FDA residue tolerances. Regardless of minor problems, Florida dairymen can boast of "clean" milk in relation to pesticide residues. This good record will continue through awareness of the problem, industry cooperation, and strict adherence to current pest control recommendations.

*John Strayer, Assistant Extension Entomologist, prepared for the 6th Annual Dairy Production Conference, May 13, 1969