

Michigan mirror

Feed mix-up may prompt special state legislation

By ELMER E. WHITE

Hoping to avert any repeat of the tragic feed mix-up situation reported earlier this year, the Michigan Department of Agriculture says feed companies should be required to notify them of any product recalls.

Department officials will ask the legislature to write such a requirement into Michigan law this fall.

"That would be one more protection against such a thing happening in the future," a department spokesman said.

What happened in the past was this: Somehow, a fire retardant chemical, known as polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), got mixed into feed instead of an experimental additive, magnesium oxide. The bromide was sold by the Michigan Chemical Co. of St. Louis, Mich. Michigan Farm Bureau Services Inc. distributed the feed.

As a result, there have been thousands and thousands of contaminated animals awaiting slaughter. The total includes 6,249 cattle, 2,200 swine, 348 sheep and 200,000 chickens. Pending court action will determine where they are to be buried.

HEAVY CRITICISM was aimed at the Agriculture Department over handling of the matter. But listen to its side of the story.

Last October, one local veterinarian sought department help in diagnosing problems with a farmer's herd. "And as far as we knew, until this May, there was only one farm involved," the spokesman said.

"If any other local veterinarians had told us of problems—if the Farm Bureau veterinarian had notified us or told us they recalled the feed in Jan-

uary, we could have pieced together some kind of pattern. But we didn't know until May."

No law now on the books requires such notification of referral or recall.

The department checked the feed used on the one farm where it knew of problems.

"About 50 different compounds were tested in our laboratory in a futile attempt to identify the source of the problem," said Director B. Dale Ball.

"At the same time, tests were being run by the nation's top animal diagnostic laboratories, and no diagnosis was made."

BALL SAID PBB "had never been identified in either feed or food previously, and there was no basis for suspecting this compound would be present in animal feeds."

Finally, a young research scientist in Beltsville, Md. Dr. George Fries, who had worked on PBB research previously, recognized the compound and, Ball said, the department staff "went into high gear."

Fighting fires with police

Arson killed six people last year, according to statistics from the Michigan State Police. In addition, the more than 5,000 fires included in arson statistics for 1973 caused an estimated \$20 million damage.

Concern over the arson problem has prompted the state police to add eight officers to the arson investigation arm of its fire marshal division.

The men, who expect to be on their new assignments before the end of September, will be given special training in arson policing techniques at State Police Headquarters in East Lansing. The Detroit arson squad will help with the training.

OFFICERS WILL be assigned to Flint, Jackson, Paw Paw, Traverse

City, Bridgeport, Marquette and two areas of Detroit.

Assignment of the new specialists is being made on the basis of "greatest policing concern in this field," state police report.

Bridgeport, for example, was chosen because of its big workload and high incidence in arson cases in its area, police said.

Buyer law signed

Legislation regulating the sale of franchises in Michigan—tagged a "vital" needed consumer protection measure" by Gov. William Milliken—now is law.

"Franchise purchasers are often newcomers to the business world and are sometimes investing their life savings," Milliken said. That makes it "essential that they have all relevant information at their disposal."

The new law, sponsored by Milliken's GOP running mate this fall, Rep. James Damman of Troy, requires:

- Registration of companies selling franchises in the state, as well as registration of all franchise-selling agents.

- Full disclosure of information to the prospective purchaser of a franchise operation.
- Prior approval of sale literature and advertising.

It also gives the Commerce Department authority to investigate violations and to issue cease and desist orders.

Band aids students

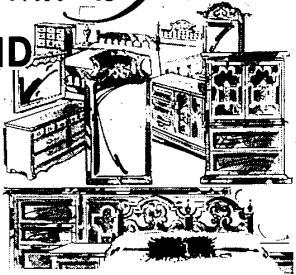
With less than a month before area schools open their doors, the Lahser High School Band is conducting its second annual marching band workshop recently.

The workshops included four hours of marching, two hours of indoor playing and analyzing marching band films.

Participating were University of Michigan bandsmen, including Warren Lambeck (workshop coordinator), Jay Range and Robert Miller from Bloomfield Hills, Allen Mehler (twirler) from Southfield; and Robert Griffis of Rochester.

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- Modern Themes: Anti-Utopians
- Fantasy
- Science Fiction Fandom
- A bibliography and reading list will be distributed at the first session.

Students may wish to obtain Sam Lundwall's *Science Fiction: What It's All About* (Ace No. 75440) prior to the first session. 10 sessions \$23. Reduced fees apply. Limit 35 persons. 6487 Dearborn T 7:45-9:30 p.m. (Sept. 25-26-Nov. 25). Marshall Tymn, Ph.D.

Mental Illness: Myth or Reality?

Ten years ago Thomas Szasz began his systematic criticism and analysis of psychiatry. His argument was fundamentally that the things we label as mental illness are in fact not illnesses at all (although very real and disturbing). He thereby called into question the whole mental health industry, especially the practice of involuntary mental hospitalization, which is based on medical premises. The publication of *Asylums* by Erving Goffman and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey catalyzed psychiatric hospitalization. The writings of R.D. Laing and his associates in England also supplemented the picture. In more recent years a group identifying itself as Radical Psychiatry has argued that mental illness is a product of racial, sexist, economic and political oppression.

Topics to be treated in these lecture-discussion sessions will include:

- Is mental illness a myth? An introduction to Szasz's argument. R.D. Laing's position.
- What is "Mental Health"? The rise of psychiatry and the mental health professions as spin-off-makers. The Therapeutic State.
- Crime and "mental illness." The social movement to redefine crime as mental illness. Case in point: the Patuxent Institution.
- Involuntary Mental Hospitalization: Crime or Helpfulness?
- Abuse of Drugs and Alcohol as Illness or Problem in Living.
- The "Anti-Psychiatry" movement. The radical therapists.
- Mental Illness and Law

The course will be most useful to those who have a basic familiarity with the "psychological help" scene. Some academic background in psychology or related social science would also be appropriate. 10 sessions. \$33. Reduced fees apply.

2256 Southfield T 8-10 p.m. (Sept. 24-Nov. 26). Martin D. Caputi, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist, Metropolitan Center in Living; Editor, *The Abolitionist*; Member, Board of Directors, Center for the Study of Psychiatry, Inc.

behavior modification: a weekend introduction

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- strengthening interpersonal relationships
- decreasing "bad" habits

Methodology will be provided through lecture, discussions, film, group work, and role-playing which will assist you in becoming your best self.

2 sessions: \$37 tuition fee includes instruction, materials, overnight accommodations (single occupancy), and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Limit 30 persons.

- Columbiere College, Clarkston, Michigan, 2266 F 7-9 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Oct. 4 and Oct. 5)
- 2267 F 7-9 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Oct. 18 and Oct. 19)
- 1158 F 7-9 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Nov. 8 and Nov. 9) Glenn Knudsvig, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Classics, University of Michigan.

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