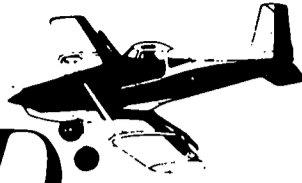


RELATIVE WIND



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE NORTH DAKOTA AVIATION ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1, NO. 5

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1979

WAHPETON, ND 58075

AGSCO 1933-1979

Meet Your Fellow Members

AGSCO had its beginning in Grand Forks, N.D. in the early 1930's as a side line

One in a Series

to a large farming operation. The company was first known as The Flaot Farm Supply Company which was a partnership bet-

Member Named To State Committee

NDAAs member Darrol G. Schroeder has been appointed to the State Committee for Pesticide and Container disposal.

Recycling of containers is an issue with a variety of factors that need to be considered, according to Schroeder.

Many drums are suitable for re-use, he noted. This re-use would reduce substantially the number of containers needed to be disposed. Disposal of containers presents problems for commercial applicators in Schroeder's view, a view probably shared by other NDAAs members.

Schroeder suggests solutions to this problem aren't the sole responsibility of the applicators. Input on this problem is needed from manufacturers and distributors. Their assistance is required in recycling and disposing of product containers.

Chairman for the committee is Tim Link of the State Health Department. Other members include: Dr. John Nalewaja, Dr. Larry Mitich, Dean McBride, Glen Johnson and Russ Brown.

In time this committee may come up with some interesting and needed suggestions on this issue of pesticide container disposal.

ween Ole Flaot and Larry Brown.

The beginning of the business involved the sale of pesticides to potato growers in the Red River Valley. The company constructed the first fertilizer blending plant in the area, at Grand Forks. The business was expanded into the formulating and sale of various agricultural chemicals as they became available. In addition, the company distributed agricultural chemicals and application equipment supplied by national manufacturers.

In 1941 the company became involved in the seed business with a seed processing plant at Thief River Falls, Minnesota and a corn drying and processing plant at Moorhead, Minnesota. It was at that point that C. W. Sande became employed by The Flaot Farm Supply Company.

In 1945 the interests of Ole Flaot were purchased and a partnership was formed by Larry Brown and C. W. Sande. The new partnership was called the Agricultural Supply Company, using the trade name AGSCO.

In 1949 three corporations were formed: AGSCO SEEDS, AGSCO CHEMICALS and AGSCO STEEL BUILDINGS.

In 1955 a fourth corporation, AGSCO DISTRIBUTORS, was formed to operate the sales units.

In the period 1950 to 1958 a manufacturing and distribution complex was built at the north edge of Grand Forks which consisted of:

1. Fertilizer Blending Plant
2. Herbicide Formulating Plant
3. Insecticide Formulating Plant
4. Dust Formulating Facilities
5. Steel Fabricating Plant

Along with these facilities were storage warehouses to accommodate supplies needed for manufacturing and also storage for finished products.

An office and local sales building was constructed in 1966 providing space for an office staff of 21 plus conference rooms, a control laboratory, lunch and sales rooms.

Since AGSCO is basically a sales

organization, formulating, manufacturing and other production procedures and facilities have been provided based on the organization's ability to introduce and sell chemicals, seeds and steel products.

At the present time in the life of AGSCO, the main thrust of the company is the promotion of the seed grain treatment, DB-Green. Separate modern formulating and packaging facilities have been created. An aggressive product performance program is carried out providing stand counts and yield data. A patented snap feed treater is now manufactured by AGSCO in a separate plant facility.

The organization consists of highly trained and skilled sales people, strategically located to sell and service products offered by the company. Fully staffed sales and merchandising units are located at Grand Forks and Grafton, North Dakota; Hallock, Crookston, Ada and Moorhead, Minnesota. Sales units serving designated areas are located at Minot, Bismarck, North Dakota and Wibaux in Montana.

The practical research which is conducted on the farm is carried on by two full time tech service men supported by a formulating chemist. These men assist the sales force in evaluating product performance and by keeping them alert to new developments.

Of the products sold, about 50% are produced by AGSCO and sold under the AGSCO brand.

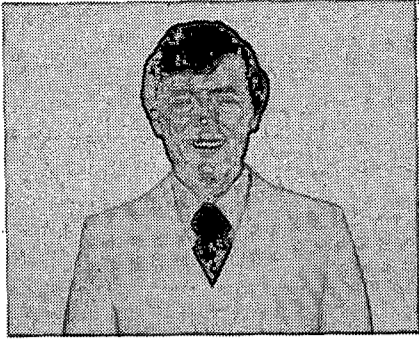
The management of the company rests with the executive staff consisting of Larry Brown, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer; Russ Brown, President; C. W. Sande, Vice President and Secretary; and Steve Sande, Production Manager.

Full time employees number approximately 90.

The High Cost Of Protection

The United States Chamber of Commerce reports that OSHA has cost the taxpayer \$25 billion. As for safety on the job statistics show that serious work place injuries are up more than 15% over the past six years.????

From Your President



By Robert Opegaard, NDAА President

The first of our convention activities have been scheduled. Thursday, January 17, 1980, we will be sponsoring the recertification seminar. The attendance of this one day meeting will fulfill the requirements for certification. Just because your present certification expires April 1980, it will not get you through the 1980 season. We will be keeping you up to date on the rest of the convention so be sure to read your Relative Wind.

NDAА will be having an airplane on display in their booth at the Annual North Dakota Trade Show and Short Course. This is held at the North Dakota State University campus. It will be in the field house on the 18-19-20th of November 1979. If you have time, we always need help running the booth. See you there.

We have been asked about a charter to Las Vegas. Due to the airline deregulation a charter at the present seems doubtful. However, we are still trying.

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From Your Secretary

By Jack Daniels, NDAA Secretary

Dear Fellow Operators

By now some of you have gone thru the agony of being recertificated as FAR 135 ATCO operators. Funny! No?

The crew at the Fargo GADO are not to be envied for the next six to twelve months. For my part I would not be interested in the job they have to do over the immediate future.

As I look back on 1969 and 1970 it seems to me that we all went through the same frustrating exercise then and some have managed to stay in business.

It would seem to me we have a more pressing problem in the area of inflation and knowing what our real costs are so we can adjust our charges accordingly. With all the work we all seem to be doing I can not help but feel we must be very careful in the pricing of our services or we can lose our shirts.

While I am not the man with the answers, it would seem to me that we need to get our act together and discuss some of these issues.

I would like to suggest that we hold a meeting of concerned FBOs in connection with the next Board of Directors meeting, some time in November, and feel our way into the main areas of concern.

Those of you who care enough to write me a note, do so, and I will work out the details and let you know.

Winter operations are fast moving in on all of us and it would be time well spent to stop and review how you intend to support your activities during the cold weather as well as keep the aircraft in the air rather than in the repair shop, as well as keep the airman in the cockpit rather than in the hospital. We all have more than enough to do so need not spend time visiting fellow airmen who may have pulled a boner and bent some aluminum or bones.

Watch for the coming winter weather changes and be prepared to deal with them. Happy Flying.

Report on NAAA Board Session

By Darroll G. Schroeder

The national board met October 3-5 in Washington, D.C. The meeting produced a variety of facts of interest to NDAA members.

The first, I would like to discuss, is Workmen's Compensation. NAAA has Workmen's Comp. coverage available to its members. This coverage took many years of hard work to achieve.

While NDAA has a state program, records of individual states may show a decrease in fees may be in order. It requires a three year cycle to evaluate the loss ratio properly.

On the way soon are gas tax regulations. Refunds will be based on a retroactive date. NAAA will advise members how to apply.

On the national level, I serve on the Research and Development Committee. Container disposal was the subject of a long discussion by this group.

Since I also serve on the North Dakota State Health Department special committee for container disposal, I had keen interest in this discussion.

Hopefully this topic can be included in our program at the NDAA annual convention in Bismarck.

Another topic of interest to all of us...fuel supplies. No regulation currently exists covering ag aviation needs. However the NAAA staff works with federal agencies on this. To assist them forward information on operator's annual needs.

And another debate...on regulation of dilution rates this time. EPA wants to set dilution rates. NAAA is of the opinion that individual states should have this duty and responsibility.

In California, the individual pilot, rather than the operator is responsible for his own actions...another approach on this topic.

Membership fees. Billings will be mailed directly to the individual member from the national office. Watch for them.

Key dates. Remember the convention in Las Vegas. The dates are December 10-13. Don't miss the greatest show on earth! A \$500 cash drawing will be made at the convention.

A convention side note: Avis will give convention discount rates for car rental. See you there!



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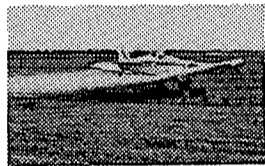
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Protection Agency, Room 447, East Tower, 401 "M" Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20480. The comments should bear the identifying notation "OPP". All written comments will be available for public inspection at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William W. Jacobs, (TS-767), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 "M" Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20480, (202) 755-4851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 25(c)(3) the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (Pub. L. 92-516, 86 Stat. 983; Pub. L. 94-140, 89 Stat. 755; Pub. L. 95-396, 92 Stat. 819; 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.) ("FIFRA") the Administrator is authorized to establish standards with respect to the package, container, or wrapping in which a pesticide or device is enclosed for use or consumption, in order to protect humans from serious injury or illness resulting from accidental ingestion or contact with pesticides as well as to accomplish other purposes of the Act. The Agency is soliciting comments from all interested parties concerning the advisability of regulation's to standardize the packaging containers for pesticides used in closed systems.

Background

"A closed mixing system" means a procedure for removing a pesticide from its original container, rinsing the emptied con-

tainer, and transferring the pesticide and rinse solution into a closing mixing tank in a manner that prevents the exposure of any person to the pesticide. The purpose of a closed system is to eliminate applicator exposure to toxic pesticides during hand pouring and mixing operations. Closed systems can also eliminate the need for protective clothing for mixers and loaders which might otherwise be required to mitigate risks from highly toxic pesticides. As a safety measure the Agency has restricted the use of some pesticides to closed systems as part of the classification process. (See 40 CFR 162.31). More pesticides may be restricted in this manner as the classification process continues. The State of California also has regulations requiring the use of closed systems and other states are considering similar requirements.

It has come to the Agency's attention that the purpose of the closed systems is not always achieved due to technical problems. A closed system requires the use of

a probe to withdraw the pesticide from the container. Due to the variety of sizes and shapes of containers and of their closures, one probe will not fit all containers. Therefore, to use closed systems, applicators must purchase adaptors, attachments, and probes to fit each combination of container size, closure size and closure style. This equipment is costly, cumbersome, and often ill-fitting. The use of imperfectly matched equipment results in leakage and spills. This, in turn, has resulted in exposure of the applicator to the pesticide, the very problem the closed system is supposed to prevent. In addition, California applicators may require a number of expensive probes since, under California regulations, probes used to withdraw pesticides may not be removed from the container until it is empty.

To correct these problems the Agency is contemplating the promulgation of regulations that will standardize closure and con-

Continued on Next Page

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tainer sizes. The Agency anticipates that the rule will result in better sealing between the connections and lead to significantly less leakage and human exposure. The Agency is also considering the use of built-in probes. The Agency strongly supports the use of closed mixing systems since their use has reduced the number of human illnesses attributed to pesticide exposure. Therefore, EPA is anxious to assist in making any improvements that

will increase the effectiveness of the system.

Specific Issues For Commentators To Address

Written public comments are invited on all issues raised in this Notice as well as any other issues concerning the development of regulations to standardize pesticide containers used in closed systems.

EPA is especially interested in soliciting public comments on the following issues:

- (1) Is regulation necessary or can an effective non-regulatory alternative be developed to achieve the desired ends?
- (2) How should the scope of the regulation be defined? i.e., which products' containers should be regulated under this rule?
- (3) What size containers should be regulated?
- (4) Should container size and fittings be standardized?
- (5) Should closure size and type be standardized, and if so, what is the best closure size and type to serve as a standard? Why? Is more than one size or type of closure desirable?
- (6) Should performance standards be adopted instead of regulating container and closure sizes, types and styles specifically?
- (7) What are the benefits of regulation in terms of reduced costs and increased safety for the applicator? What are the costs of standardization for the pesticide producers and container manufacturers?
- (8) Are built-in probes desirable? Are they economically feasible?
- (9) Are built-in probes preferable to container standardization?

(10) What time period and what costs would be required for container manufacturers and pesticide producers to shift to standardized packaging?

(11) What are the alternatives to regulation? Are voluntary standards feasible? How long would it take for the industry to develop such standards?

EPA also requests that interested parties submit information on the following points:

- (1) The safety record of existing closed systems;
- (2) Which jurisdiction are considering requiring closed systems;
- (3) The extent of use of closed systems where not required;
- (4) Specific descriptions of accidents resulting from ill-fitting equipment;
- (5) Which container sizes are used most frequently in closed systems;
- (6) The number and types of different container closures used in closed systems;
- (7) The seriousness of the problem of ill-fitting equipment;
- (8) The costs of extra equipment (probes/adaptors) to applicators;
- (9) Specific equipment match-up-problems;
- (10) Equipment match-ups that do not cause problems;
- (11) Costs of closure standardization, container standardization, and built-in probes to all interested groups.

EPA will carefully consider all timely public comments and information received before developing a notice of proposed rulemaking. Again, parties interested in this notice are strongly urged to comment on the issues involved.

Dated: September 14, 1979.
Douglas M. Costle, Administrator
(FR Doc. 79-29275 Filed 9-19-79; 8:45 a.m.)

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