

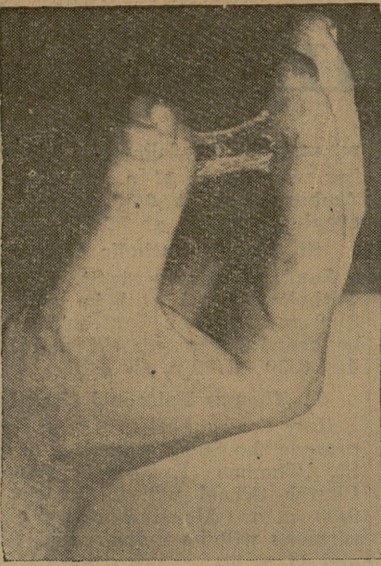
# PMA Officials Here Wait Final Notice

**A. C. McAFEE**  
 Senior News Writer

The Production and Marketing Committee, is still actively engaged at the College Station Headquarters pending another official and formal orders runs for the mandates of an order March 20 from the Department of Agriculture.

handling of the PMA at the state and county levels just what Secretary of Agriculture Benson believes the functions of the farmer committee to be.

The committees will be retained on a part-time basis and in advisory or policy-making capacities. The state committee will hire an executive officer to run the program at the state level and the county committee will employ an office manager. The latter job will not be a Civil Service job.



**STRETCHES**—Krilium becomes sticky and elastic when moistened. It is used in the improvement of soil structure.

## The Battalion Farm & Ranch NEWS

### Cotton Insect Control Study Starts Monday

A cotton insect control short course will be held here Monday through Thursday of next week, according to Dr. J. C. Gaines, head of the entomology department.

The course is designed to enable a person who has had little or no entomology to be qualified to check cotton for insects and recommend controls for the different insects, Gaines said.

Classes begin at 7 p.m. Monday in Room 105 of the Biological Sciences Building. Slides of both destructive and beneficial insects will be shown with lectures by Gaines and Dr. V. A. Little, professor of entomology.

Students interested in cotton insect control are invited, said Gaines.

### Poultry Judges Are Second in Memphis

The junior Poultry Judging Team won second place in the Sixth Annual Southern Intercollegiate Poultry Judging contest held in Memphis, Tenn., recently.

Members of the team were Charley Kammerdiener Jr., Eugene Rozaeky, Jim Newman and George Luquette. The team was coached by C. B. Ryan, assistant professor of poultry husbandry.

Kammerdiener won first place in the Production Division and was fourth high individual. Rozaeky won third place in the Live Market Division and was fifth high individual.

Nine states were represented at the contest. The contest was sponsored by feed manufacturers of Memphis. Members of the teams made a tour through the Firestone Company and the International Harvester Company.

# Krilium Helps Condition Soil

**By J. F. FORD**  
 Battalion News Writer

During the past two years, there has been much interest and speculation about the importance of chemical soil conditioners in the future of agriculture. The first of these to be presented to the public was "krilium," produced by the Monsanto Chemical Company.

Since there are probably many agricultural students and workers who are either unfamiliar with this product or who perhaps have heard over-rated accounts of its performance, the purpose of this article is to set forth both its possibilities and its limitations.

Krilium is Monsanto's trade name for a number of organic polymers which the company has developed for the improvement of soil structure. They are calcium or sodium salts and are molecularly similar to synthetic rubber.

#### Synthetic Replacement

Krilium is a synthetic replacement for the natural gums and resins which are formed as minor by-products of the decomposition of plant residues, manures, composts and other organic matter. These natural soil binding gums are themselves rapidly decomposed by soil bacteria, making it necessary

to replace organic matter periodically in order to maintain gum-producing humus and thus keep a desirable loose, porous soil structure—a good tilth.

The physical properties of soil are largely controlled by two factors—soil texture and soil structure. Soil texture is determined by the relative amounts of the different particle sizes, such as sand, silt, and clay. Soil structure, with which we are interested, is determined by the stable arrangement of the primary particles as they stabilize themselves in aggregates.

Good soil structure is, therefore, a problem of arrangement of the soil particles—the most satisfactory apparently being stable aggregates that range from the size of a pinhead to the size of a pea.

#### Molecular Linkage Aid

Krilium accomplishes this association of soil particles into water-stable aggregates by molecular linkage.

On the farm, good tilth is accomplished by intelligent rotation, soil improving crops use in cover cropping and green manuring, and the proper utilization of crop residues and manures. Good tilth is essential in producing good yields for many reasons, such as better

intake and retention of rainfall, sufficient air supply for root respiration, easy root penetration, higher rate of seed emergence, and increased effectiveness of fertilizers.

Thus, the function of Krilium is to produce these desired effects and also to prevent erosion. It is on the market in both liquid and powder forms.

#### Limitations to Use

There are, however, many limiting factors which restrict the use of Krilium and other synthetic soil conditioners. The greatest of these is the cost. Initial prices for these compounds are high, averaging close to two dollars a pound, which will of course limit their usefulness in general agriculture since 500 to 1000 pounds per acre constitute the average application for a three-inch depth.

Until production facilities can be established and competition forces considerable price reductions, it will be necessary to think of it only in terms of specialized, intensive agriculture and low rate applications.

One way that has been found is to treat only the top half-inch of soil. In most types of work, however, it is difficult to keep that

small strata near the surface and thereby prevent crusting.

Another method, used by the Ohio Experiment Station in testing the effectiveness of soil conditioners, is a spray treatment of a band of soil above the row after certain vegetable row crops have been planted. The amount of conditioner needed is in this way reduced to about 30 pounds per acre.

Though seedling emergence and early growth are greatly facilitated, the price is near prohibitive for this type of use, because the one crop would have to bear the total expense of the application.

Another limitation which should be pointed out is that even though soil conditioners can replace the gums and resins which the soil obtains from organic matter, they are not a substitute for organic matter. They furnish no food for soil organisms and add no fertility, nor do they act as a reservoir for plant nutrients.

Good soil structure and high fertility go hand in hand, however. The direct function of these chemicals is to form water stable soil aggregates sufficiently large to prevent clodding and to keep the soil porous and mellow. Once in (See KRILIUM, Page 6)

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