

Deputy Commissioner



HOME OFFICE

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Our reference: FIR/70 15/15/27
Your reference:

20 December 1976

To all Chief Officers

45969

Dear Chief Officer

HAY FIRES: ADDITIVES TO HAY

1. It has been brought to my attention that some farmers are increasingly using additives and preservatives in hay to prevent mould growth and I thought that Chief Fire Officers would wish to be aware of this development and its possible effect on fire-fighting operations. A list of some known additives is attached. One of the benefits of using additives is thought to be a reduction in the likelihood of heating which is perhaps one of the more common causes of fires in hay.
2. Two particular points arise which are of interest to fire-fighters.
3. My information is that the quantity of preservative used is relatively small, about 0.1 per cent by weight of that of the hay, and at this level, even allowing for the possible use of greater than recommended quantities and poor distribution in the hay, there would be no marked alteration in the known fire risks from those occurring with the hay alone. Although some slight changes in smell may be apparent, the main problem would still be the acidity of the fumes from the burning hay itself.
4. A different situation exists when a storeroom or barn containing quantities of the preservative chemicals in their raw and undiluted state is involved in fire. Here a toxic concentration of fumes could result, particularly in an enclosed space, and breathing apparatus should be worn.
5. The farmer should be consulted to ascertain whether these additives in their undiluted state are involved in any fire situation and whether hay in barns or other enclosed spaces has been chemically treated so that appropriate action, including the wearing of breathing apparatus, can be initiated where necessary.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Bralla

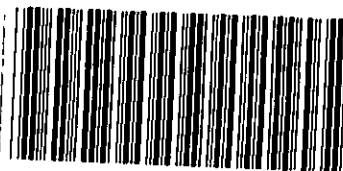
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HAY ADDITIVES - LIST OF CURRENT PRODUCTS

<u>Hay Additive</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>
Hay Shield	Feed Service (Livestock) Ltd., Hartham, Corsham, Wilts SN13 0QB
Bale Kote (Powder)	Pan Britannica Industries Ltd., Britannica House, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 7DY
Hay Maker	Tithebarn Products Ltd., PO Box 20, Victoria House, Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0NY
Hay Master	Agil Ltd., Fishponds Close, Wokingham, Berks RG11 2QL
Haystat	Chapman and Frearson Ltd., Victoria Street, Grimsby DN31 1PX
Hay Preservative	Mineral Supplements Ltd., PO Box 10, Runcorn, Cheshire
Hay Care	Bell and Sons Ltd., Link Road, Huyton, Liverpool L36 6AR
Fodderade H	Dallas Keith Ltd., Bromag Industrial Estate, Minster Lovell, Near Witney, Oxfordshire
Add-H	BP Nutrition (UK) Ltd., Greenfield House, 69/73 Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0BP

**The Fire Service
College**



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