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United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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October 18, 1979

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON -- The Environmental Protection Agency has granted permission for a 1979-80 test of an experimental fire ant control chemical in Texas and eight other states, Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Tex., announced.

De la Garza said the agency informed him that the new product -- designated as A.C. 217,300 -- can be tested on 10,000 acres this fall and 100,000 acres next spring.

The fire ant product is designed for use on pastures and other non-crop land. To permit its experimental use on pasture, EPA officials have also established a temporary tolerance for residues of the chemical -- a step which means that farmers can safely graze livestock on treated pasture.

"I am pleased to learn that the EPA is willing to authorize a test, because the fire ant is a major problem in many areas and we badly need to find effective and safe methods of controlling it," de la Garza said.

The experimental permit will be effective from Oct. 16, 1979, to Oct. 16, 1980. In addition to Texas, states in which the new chemical can be tested include Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina.

De la Garza is Chairman of the Department Investigations, Oversight and Research Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over federal pesticide control legislation.