

New Herbicides Available

Farmers should be prepared to use some of the newer herbicides this spring and summer since many of the older chemicals will be scarce, says Dr. Nathan L. Hartwig, weed scientist at The Pennsylvania State University.

"While the prices for herbicides will be somewhat higher this year, don't cut the application rates to save money. A loss of just 1 bushel of corn per acre is a loss of 2 to 3 dollars per acre," Dr. Hartwig stated during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Plant Food and Protectant Educational Society held recently at University Park.

He indicated there are a number of new herbicides labeled, or likely to be labeled, for use on soybeans. These are all closely related to Treflan and Planavin, two fairly common weed killers. The new ones include Tolban, Cobex, and others.

The above herbicides are all effective in controlling annual grasses but are weak in controlling yellow nutsedge, quackgrass, and other perennial weeds—in addition to common ragweed, velvetleaf, smartweed, and cocklebur.

Basagran is a relatively new herbicide to use after soybeans have emerged. It gives excellent control of 2 to

3 inch annual broadleaved weeds except for redroot pigweed—but is useless on grasses. Basagran will also control yellow nutsedge after it is 6 to 8 inches tall, but it may not control broadleaved weeds adequately after they are this tall.

"Don't depend on Basagran for your total weed control program. Instead, use it as an emergency clean-up treatment for preplant or preemergence treatments that may have missed certain weeds," Dr. Hartwig suggested.

Some liquid herbicides will be available in more concentrated formulations than in previous years, the Penn

State weed scientist pointed out. This is a trend which means less solvents, fewer containers, and less shipping and storage costs.

Some new formulations of Sutan "plus" and Eradicane contain 6.7 pounds of active material instead of the original 6 pounds per gallon. This means application rates must be adjusted accordingly. He added that Eptam and Vernam formulations will contain 7 pounds of active material per gallon instead of 6.

FFA Region I

Members of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association, Region I (consisting of counties in southeastern Penna.) assembled at the Holiday Inn West, Allentown as a culmination of their efforts in procuring new members for the organization. Forty-four persons from Berks County attended.

The membership goal is allocated by the State Board of PFA and Berks Co. was the 15th county in the state to reach their goal. Berks County members in PFA number 893, a gain of 26 over 1974, and 15 more than the designated number set by the state.

The membership chairman in Berks was Mr. John Stump of Bernville R1 and co-chairman was Mr. Ernest Heckman of Hamburg R1. Mr. Stump remarked, "The enthusiasm of the workers attaining the new members was the key to the success of this project." Desk sets were presented to these two men by the state organization for their efforts in organizing the group of workers.

Mr. David Hauseman, Oley R1, was declared the "King Pin Winner", having secured 17 new members. Mr. George Moyer, Myerstown R1 who secured 14 new members and Mr. Joe Gaetani of Temple who secured 11 members were honored at this affair. They will each be presented a PFA

cap and a letter of commendation from the Berks County executive board.

Guests at this dinner meeting were: Mr. Gene McDowell, PFA Regional Organizational Director; Mr. Chester Heim, PFA Public Affairs Director; and Mr. Arthur Hershey, Cochranville, Penna., member of State Board of Directors.

The speakers were Mr. Frank O'Connell, Jr., of Kingston, Pa. and Mr. Kevin Hall, Vice President of National FFA.

Door prizes which were all agricultural products; namely mushrooms (both fresh and canned), potatoes, and rosebuds and carnations were awarded.

A meeting honoring all

new members of the PFA organization and their families will be held in the near future. A victory party for all Berks County membership workers and their families is scheduled for Feb. 22 at the Bernville Grange at 7:30. Mr. William Myer, President of Berks PFA will show slides of Australia which were taken on his recent trip there.

Berks County Ladies Day Out will be held at Riveredge on March 26.

Members from Berks Legislative committee will be visiting their Congressmen and Senators in Washington on March 12 and 13 and the State Assemblymen at Harrisburg on April 7.



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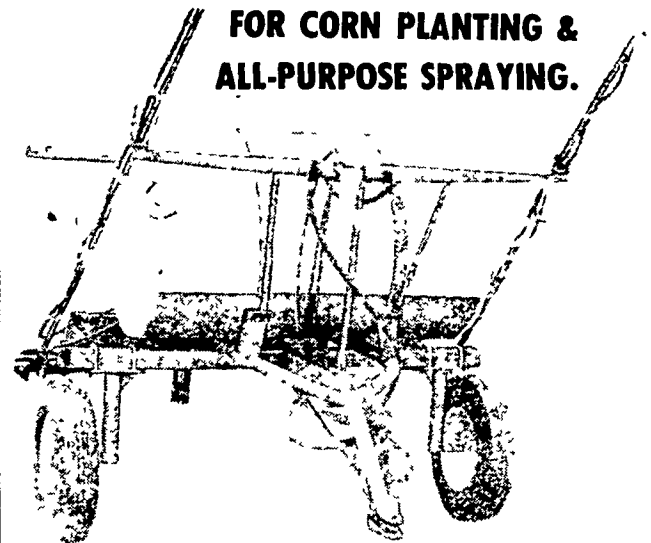
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