

Pa. Auction Summary

November 23, 1979

CATTLE 3124. Compared to 4490 head last week and 3733 head a year ago. Compared with last uneven market, slaughter steers Choice & Prime mostly \$1 higher. Standard & Good unevenly steady. Sl. heifers uneven. Sl. cows mostly steady, spots \$1 lower on Utility & Commercial. Sl. bullocks \$1-\$2 higher Sl. bulls steady to \$1 higher High Choice & Prime sl. steers YG 3-4 69.00-72.00; Choice YG 2-4 66.00-70.00 Good 60.00-67.00 Standard 57.00-62.00. Choice sl. heifers 63.00-68.00. Good 55.00-62.00. Standard 50.00-56.00. Utility & Commercial sl. cows 47.00-52.50, Cutters 46.00-50.50. Canner & L. Cutter 42.00-47.00. Shells down to 33.00. Choice sl. bullocks 66.00-73.00. Good 62.00-67.00, few Standard 57.00-62.00. Utility Yield Grade #1, 1000-2100 lbs. 58.00-68.50, Yield Grade #2, 900-1575 lbs. 52.00-64.00.

FEEDER CATTLE Choice Medium & Large Frame No. 1 300-500 lbs. steers 65.00-89.00, few down to 55.00. Medium Frame No. 1 500-800 lbs. 52.00-67.00. Good heifers Medium Frame No. 1 & 2 500-750 lbs. 48.00-57.00. Medium & Large Frame No. 1 300-600 lbs 58.00-69.00. Good bulls, few Medium & Large Frame 500-800 lbs. 52.00-68.00

CALVES 2508. Compared to 3169 head last week and 2663 head a year ago. Vealers steady to \$3 higher. Few Prime vealers 105.00-

121.00, Choice 100.00-115.00, Good 90.00-105.00; Standard & Good 90-120 lbs. 85.00-95.00, 70-90 lbs. 70.00-89.00, Utility 50-100 lbs. 50.00-75.00

FARM CALVES: Steady to weak. Hol. Bulls 90-120 lbs. 100.00-128.00, few down to 85.00. Hol. Heifers 85-150 lbs. 100.00-200.00, few down to 85.

HOGS 6307. Compared to 5504 head last week and 5884 head a year ago. Barrows and gilts mostly \$1.00-2.50 higher US No. 1-2 200-240 lbs. barrows & gilts 39.50-41.50, few 42.85, No. 1-3 200-250 lbs. 38.50-40.50; No. 2-3 190-260 lbs 37.00-38.50, few No. 1-3 140-190 lbs. 30.00-35.00. **SOWS** uneven. US No. 1-3 300-575 lbs. sows 27.00-34.00, No. 2-3 300-650 lbs. 25.00-30.00. **BOARS** 23.00-28.75.

FEEDER PIGS 1428 Compared to 1832 head last

week and 1247 head a year ago. Most \$1-1.50 lower. US No. 1-3 20-35 lbs. feeder pigs 5.00-15.00 per head, No. 1-3 35-59 lbs 15.00-30.50, No. 1-3 50-75 lbs 30.00-39.00.

GRADED FEEDER PIGS 2764. **ALL SALES** Compared with 2378 head last week, and 3455 head a year ago. Feeder pigs mostly \$2-9 higher. US No. 1-2 30-40 lbs. 64.00-75.00, 40-50 lbs 62.00-73.00, 50-60 lbs 55.00-66.00, 60-80 lbs 47.00-59.00; US No 2-3 25-40 lbs. 51.00-60.00, 40-50 lbs. 41.00-55.00, 50-65 lbs 31.50-44.00.

SHEEP 299. Compared to 346 head last week and 453 head a year ago. Woolled sl. lambs uneven, spot \$2 higher to \$5 lower. Choice 60-110 lbs. 55.00-67.00, Good 50-100 lbs. 50.00-61.50 Slaughter ewes 13.00-33.00.

How to use garden mulch

MEDIA - Mulches can be applied anytime, but the best time to mulch is from late summer on through the autumn months, advises James J. McKeehen, Delaware County Extension Agricultural Agent.

The use of mulches dates back to the beginning of agriculture. They've helped soil in a number of ways—they reduce and slow down runoff and erosion, conserve moisture through reducing evaporation, maintain soil structure and modify soil temperature, add plant nutrients and increase

biological activities in the soil.

Mulching materials are easy to find. Crop residues, sawdust or woodchips, tree bark, manure, compost, and stone or gravel can all be used as a mulch around shrubs and in gardens. For a lawn mulch, such materials as grass hay, straw or cheesecloth are recommended. The fine texture and weed/seed free nature of salt hay is a special plus.

Mulching in gardens is best done where you raise vegetables or rows of flowers. Weeds are easier to pull out and often prevent seeds from germinating.

To mulch a newly seeded lawn, use salt hay at the rate of one bale for each 2,500 square feet. Mulching materials should be spread evenly.

Rotate tillage programs for better weed control

BY **JAMES V. PAROCHETTI** Science and Education U.S. Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rotating corn land from a reduced or no-tillage to a conventional tillage program makes good weed management sense. The fact is, crop rotation is good management even if no plowing is done.

There are times when periodic moldboard plowing every three to five years should be considered. It helps to mix the soil, keep perennial weeds in check and bury high numbers of weed seeds that tend to build-up on the surface with no-tillage and reduced tillage.

Corn growers can reduce weed seed populations and get better performance from the wider variety of preplant and preemergence herbicides available for conventional tillage corn.

By conventionally tilling, a grower can use preplant incorporated herbicides such as Sutan+ and Eradicane, or preemergence herbicides such as Dual or Lasso.

Properly incorporated herbicides are usually more consistent than surface applications. Generally, higher rates of Dual or Lasso will be needed when incorporating.

Problem Weeds

Some weeds, particularly fall panicum, yellow nutsedge and triazine resistant redroot pigweed, (common in the Shenandoah Valley, Western Maryland and South Central Pennsylvania), are becoming

increasingly difficult to control in no-tillage and minimum tillage corn.

Many growers have continued to use standard herbicides in reduced or no-tillage programs—because these are used successfully in conventional corn.

But weed pressures in no-tillage or reduced tillage have become too great and some grassy and broadleaved perennials and annuals have gone out of control.

These high seed populations, on or near the soil surface in reduced or no-tillage corn, will sprout next year. Research at the University of Nebraska has shown that higher weed seed populations will require higher rates of herbicides for thorough control.

To correct this costly situation, growers should moldboard plow, every three to five years, to bury weed seed below their germinating zone.

Chisel plows and discs will also bury weed seeds, but not deep enough to stifle germination and to assist herbicide performance.

Perennial weeds continue to increase in population in reduced and no-tillage fields. Common broadleaved perennials include hemp dogbane, milkweed, brambles and brushy weeds; grassy or grass-like perennials include johnsongrass, quackgrass, yellow nutsedge and bromesedge.

Moldboard plowing, preferably in fall if erosion is not a problem, will severely injure these perennials by breaking up roots and the root-like reproductive organs.

Fall plowing will also make personal weeds more vulnerable to winterkill—especially johnsongrass.

Furthermore, the reduced vigor of these grasses will make them more susceptible to treatments from Sutan+ and Eradicane.

There are no effective preplant or preemergence herbicides available to control perennial broadleaved weeds in corn. Therefore, a postemergence application of Banvel or Banvel with 2,4-D should be used.

Herbicides that control grassy perennials vary.

For quackgrass, atrazine or Eradicane plus atrazine is effective; for johnsongrass, Eradicane has proven to be the most consistent.

Nutsedge can be controlled with Sutan+; less effective preemergence nutsedge treatments include Dual and Lasso.

A postemergence application of Basagran or atrazine will also control

nutsedge; however, preplant and preemergence treatments are preferred because unchecked competition during early stages of crop development will cause yield reduction.

Mix the soil

Not only does moldboard plowing bury a large build of weed seeds, but plowing also mixes the soil. In continuous no tillage, the soil surface pH decreases and the organic matter increases; both have a dramatic effect on herbicide performance.

Maintaining optimum pH in the surface soil is extremely important in getting the most out of the triazine herbicides such as atrazine, Princep and Bladex.

Where nitrogen fertilizers are being applied to the soil surface, sometimes for two or more years without lime or tillage, the pH can decrease to 5.5 or less during the growing season.

When the pH in the surface soil falls below 5.5, reduced activity from the triazines can be expected.

Therefore, no-tillage corn growers should sample the top two inches of soil for a pH test and continue liming to maintain a pH above 6.2 for best triazine activity. Plowing will mix the acid soil surface with soil having a higher pH, but lime will still be needed.

Organic matter content of a soil can increase either through continuous no-tillage or manure applications.

While this increase can be advantageous, both from a fertility and moisture holding capacity, herbicidal activity can be reduced.

Soil samples should be taken from the top two inches of the soil and organic matter should be determined where a buildup might be expected.

Many of our soils contain 2 to 2.5 percent organic matter and most herbicide labels recommend increased rates when the organic matter exceeds 3 percent.

Soil sampling and adjusting herbicide rates based on organic matter content can be helpful in obtaining good weed control in no-tillage corn production.

Plowing will mix the organic matter that might be accumulating on the soil surface.

Better weed control

Weed control in no-till corn requires better management than for conventionally tilled corn. The following checklist should help no-tillage corn growers get better weed control.

Moldboard plow problems fields. Plowing helps to bury weed seeds and break up perennial weeds. Do not (Turn to Page 37)

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