

Farmers ask less government meddling

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — An overwhelming majority of U.S. growers say they want less government involvement in farming according to the results of a Doane Agricultural Service study conducted for the American Soybean Association.

"It is clear they continue to oppose government involvement in their farming operations," said ASA President Allan Aves, a soybean grower from Kirkland, Illinois.

"The opinion poll asked soybean growers their attitudes toward six different government issues and in each case, the growers said they oppose further government intervention."

Soybean growers have strongly opposed President Carter's embargo of grain and soybeans to the Soviet Union. In fact, 73.7 percent of the growers say they favor removing the Soviet embargo.

President Carter's Soviet embargo marked the first time the U.S. has used food as a diplomatic tool and 57 percent of the soybean farmers say they oppose the use of food as a political weapon.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent involvement in rice sales to Mexico has created controversy in the farm community. Not surprisingly, 79.8 percent of the soybean farmers surveyed say they oppose the U.S. government serving as an export sales agency or national grain board for agricultural commodities.

Reaction to the current federal soybean loan program was mixed. While 44 percent of the soybean growers say they support the soybean loan program, 37.2 percent oppose its continuation. Of those citing the primary purpose of the soybean loan, 56.9 percent say it should serve as an additional source of credit rather than a guaranteed price.

The current soybean loan

level is \$4.50 per bushel. ASA has advocated increasing the loan to \$5.02 and 57.7 percent of the growers say they support a \$5.00 loan. While 82.6 percent of the growers favored a loan of \$5.00 or less, 14.2 percent say

they don't want any soybean loan.

Two-thirds (66.8 percent) say they oppose establishment of a soybean set-aside or acreage program.

The majority of the

soybean growers (53 percent) say they oppose a federally-funded soybean reserve program similar to current programs for corn and wheat. Asked for the principle reason for opposing the soybean reserve, 55.2 percent say it is because the reserve means more government involvement while 10.9 percent say a reserve would place a ceiling on soybean prices.

Three-fourths (73.3 percent) of the soybean growers say they favor the soybean

grower investment checkoff programs. About 470,000 soybean farmers in 22 states currently participate in such programs to support soybean research and worldwide market development.

"The results of this national opinion poll demonstrate that soybean farmers want less government involvement," Aves says. "There are ways the U.S. government can help us recover from the depressed farm economy without excessive interference."

"They could match grower

investments in overseas market development projects. They could lift the Soviet embargo. They could encourage sales to developing countries by creating a \$5 billion revolving fund for Commodity Credit Corporation export credits.

"These programs would involve minimal federal outlays, would save taxpayers from expensive price support and reserve boondoggles and would reduce government interferences in individual farming operations. I hope somebody in Washington listens to soybean farmers and takes some action," he said.

Roundup

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ranging from \$74 to \$216 per acre, he noted. This return is based on the cost of Roundup only and a gross return of \$125 a ton for grapes.

Using the same criteria in a more extreme situation, the return per acre ranged anywhere from \$274 to \$360 per acre as a result of using Roundup alone.

Roundup is phytotoxic to grapevines as well as other plants, Haeseler points out. Principal symptoms parallel those of other broadleaved weeds. Newly formed leaves become mis-shaped and distorted. Tip leaves will cup strongly and gradually become chlorotic. Eventually, they will turn a whitish-yellow at which point leaf tissue will show evidence of death.

Distortion principally is in the form of deep pock marks, strong cupping and deep, narrow sinusing accompanied by some paralleling of veins. Serrations, also become narrow, sharp and spaced close together.

Older leaves may exhibit reverse cupping in conjunction with a darkening of interveinal tissue which could be confused with lime-induced potassium deficiency — a disorder known as black leaf. Injury symptoms may be confused with that caused by nutrient disorders, potato leafhopper, late infestations of powdery mildew or even phytotoxicity by a phenoxy herbicide.

Strong phytotoxic symptoms will usually occur when grape leaves are exposed to Roundup either as a result of drift or direct spray and those leaves have developed

to one-fourth their final size or larger. Therefore, vineyards should not be sprayed with Roundup when the majority of grape leaves have attained a size greater than one-quarter of their final size.

As far as grapevines are concerned Roundup with enter through leaves, partially matured green internodes and partially matured buds early in the season. Non-entry sites include immature shoots, roots, well-matured canes and trunks.

Machinery considerations in the application of Roundup are the use of nozzles with large orifices, and low pressure (20-25 psi). Machinery considerations and spraying when the wind velocity is 5 mph or less will be the most effective approach to use in reducing drift.

Roundup may be applied on a potential grape site prior to planting if a perennial weed is expected to be problematical, Haeseler adds. Application should be made the year prior to planting.

Practically speaking, Roundup can not be applied later than bloom (90 percent cap fall). Also, vines must be three years of age.

Consequently, care must be exercised when spraying a vineyard that has a high proportion of suckers or layers. Suckers should be removed prior spraying. It appears as though the most popular use for Roundup in vineyards will be as a spot application to control isolated weed problems, concludes Haeseler.

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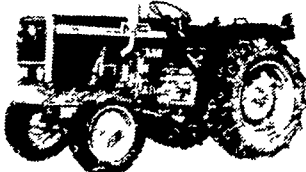
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