

# Ephrata farmers get update on pesticide

LANDISVILLE — Corn rootworm, Japanese beetle, bindweed, and clean sprayers were among the topics discussed by Ephrata Area Young Farmers on their tour of the Landisville Research Station Tuesday.

While the purpose of the trip was to obtain a pesticide certification update, the farmers learned about a number of health-saving and money-saving chemical use tips.

John Yocum, director of the Penn State Experiment farm conducted the tour.

"A farmer who is willing to walk his corn fields, not just skirt them, can save a good bit of money on insecticides. Now is the time to check corn fields for northern corn rootworm.

If there are fewer than

three beetles per plant this year there probably will be no need to spray for rootworm next season.

At the Research Station a five year study with Furadan has not shown any economic advantage to application of the material on conventional corn.

But, Yocum noted, he would not even think of planting no-till corn without an insecticide. And, he noted, the agronomists keep close tabs on the insect situation.

A tip on rootworm scouting this summer: don't mistake the goosenecking caused by wind damage for rootworm damage.

Japanese beetle is one insect pest that farmers can do nothing about.

To control the bug it would

be necessary to spray every five to seven days for a month. The spray would probably have to be flown on. In short, it's not an economical practice.

Several good herbicide combinations are available for soybeans, Yocum said.

He told the Ephrata Young Farmers that Lorox-Lasso or Sencor-Dual were good materials. Prowl does a good job on grasses and some deep-seeded broadleaves, but will miss nutsedge and some ragweed.

Velvetleaf remains a problem, best handled in soybeans with a post-application of Basagran or Blazer; in corn, by going over the top with Banvel or 2,4-D.

A warning on the Banvel—don't apply the material



A rope-wick applicator, such as that on the ground, can apply minute amounts of highly concentrated herbicide to a tall weed safely and economically, as long as care is taken not to touch the growing crop with the material. The chemical is contained in the plastic drain pipe. The nylon rope soaks up material like a wick and dribbles it on weeds.

when temperatures are over 85 degrees as damage may result. And next year, try to apply the material before the corn gets much over a foot high.

Milkweed in corn can be handled the same way as velvetleaf. But in soybeans the best solution is to rotate to corn and knock it back at that time.

Bindweed and burr cucumber are similar problems, both best handled with a high rate of about 2.5 pounds of triazine herbicide per acre.

Burr cucumber is a climbing vine plant identified by its resemblance to garden cucumbers.

Bindweed also is a vine problem. This weed often is

confused with morningglory. Yocum said he never had seen morningglory in Lancaster County.

Bindweed is a creeping vine which grows up plants and poles. At this time of year it has a white flower. In general, farmers probably will recognize the weed as

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John Yocum, right, told members of the Ephrata Area Young Farmers about the latest research in pesticide use and safety during their trip to the Penn State research farm in Landisville.

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