

Fungicide controls disease in wheat

UNIVERSITY PARK — Wheat is becoming a "high tech" crop; the days of "plant it and forget it until harvest" are over.

"Double cropping with soybeans has added new options in crop selection for producers. The advent of foliar fungicides represented additional opportunities for yield increases," says Herbert Cole, professor of plant pathology at Penn State.

Powdery mildew and Septoria leaf blotch, disease of wheat, can be effectively controlled through foliar sprays. Bayleton provides

excellent control of powdery mildew and Tilt controls both powdery mildew and Septoria, he adds.

In 1982, 3,500 acres of wheat in Pennsylvania were sprayed with Bayleton under an environmental Protection Agency registration provision. Bayleton possibly will have full registration for use in the 1983 season, while Tilt is undergoing the registration procedures and should be available for the 1984 crop.

Fungicides along, however, are not the miracle answer for 100-

bushel wheat yields. High yields depend on various production options integrated into a workable system. Planting time, planting rate, row spacing, variety, fertilizer rate, soil type, weed treatment, and foliar fungicides all must be considered in picking options for maximum productivity.

"If fungicide application is to be a profitable practice, then all other production factors must be optimized," Cole adds. "Wheat should be planted at the Hessian fly free date in narrow rows. A

high yield potential stiff-strawed variety should be selected."

In general, the later the planting date, the higher the seeding rate is needed. Fertilizer rate should be set by evaluating soil tests as well as residual nitrogen, organic matter, and overall farm fertility levels.

"The benefit from a foliar fungicide treatment will depend on doing everything else right, in devising a production system, and then monitoring the fields for powdery mildew and Septoria development," the Penn State plant pathologist notes.

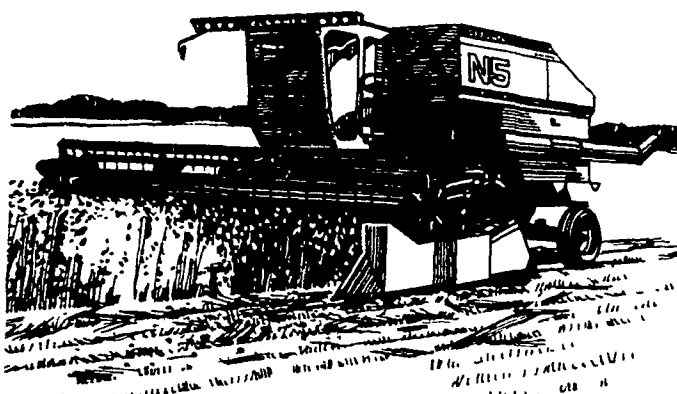
Clint Roberts is special trade consultant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Clint Roberts, former Congressman from South Dakota's 2nd District, has been named a special consultant on international trade matters at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Roberts will work in the development of export trading companies and in counter-trade issues in the upper midwest and western states. While in Congress, Roberts was instrumental in the passage of legislation permitting the formation of export trading companies.

"Clint Roberts brings unique qualifications to this important post," said Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. "His knowledge of trading issues gives him the experience needed to get the job done. And because of his hands-on work in farming and ranching, he has a grassroots knowledge of why his work is so important. He will be a great asset to us as we continue our efforts to gain an equitable share of the world market."

Roberts, a farmer-rancher in the Presho, South Dakota area, served as a Secretary of Agriculture for south Dakota prior to his 1978 election to Congress. He also served three times in the State Senate.



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