

Ciba-Geigy research tour

Can wheat yield barrier be broken?

LANDISVILLE — Wheat research — more or less one of the forgotten crops in the yield sweepstakes — was featured in the Ciba-Geigy Keystone Farm Tour in Lancaster County on Wednesday.

Wheat research plots featured use of a new Ciba-Geigy fungicide, Tilt, which may play a major role in a few years in providing healthier plants to increase yields.

In comparisons of the use of Bayleton and the new Tilt, Ciba-Geigy researcher Frank Tremmel, showed the healthier stands of wheat with the latter fungicide.

The new Tilt does a much better job on Septoria, according to Tremmel, and had a 50 percent better control than the Bayleton.

While on the Bayleton plots, only the flag leaf of the plants showed vigor, the Tilt plots showed healthy second leaves and even vigor in the third leaf.

"You can hardly see the ground in the Tilt plots with the fuller, healthier plants," Tremmel explained.

"But the Bayleton plants are thinner and you can see right to the ground."

Tremmel explained that in a total wheat management program, in which Tilt could play a part, wheat yields could be boosted anywhere from 30 to 60 bushels.

Jack Beideman, of Ciba-Geigy, outlined advantages of some of the newer products on the market.

Corn plots with Evik, a short residual triazine, were shown. It

has been used as a potato vine killer up in Lehigh County and its short residual permits coming back in small grains.

Ridomil wettable powder MZ58 controls mildew in such crops as cucumbers, melons and onions and late blight in potatoes and tomatoes.

Prime Plus as a tobacco sucker control has only a two-hour drying time and no leaf discoloring or MH30 residuals.

Ralph Hall, district manager of Ciba-Geigy, led the tour groups through the corn plots on the Leroy Esbenshade farm. In addition to various combination herbicide controls, the plots also compared no-till, pre-plant and pre-emerge.

Incorporation comparisons showed that the less incorporation in a wet year was the best. Spring tooth showed up best, with very shallow roller harrow second and the disc as the worst.

Also speaking was Dave Cote, of Chevron, who explained that in no-till there must be a year-to-year adaptation with no two years the same due to changes in conditions.

Evik was pointed out particularly as a product for PIK acres to control grasses. With its short residual triazine characteristics, it can be put on in June or July and you can come back with small grains in the fall or spring with no carry-over.

Other Ciba-Geigy personnel participating in the Keystone Farm tour were Neil Orr and John Flanagan.



Neil Orr, of Ciba-Geigy, explains Farm-Pak Systems to part of tour group.



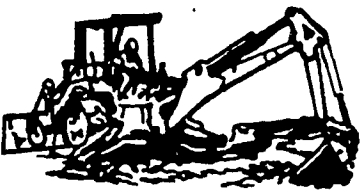
Herbicide comparisons are examined by participants in Ciba-Geigy Keystone Farm Tour in corn field of Leroy Esbenshade.



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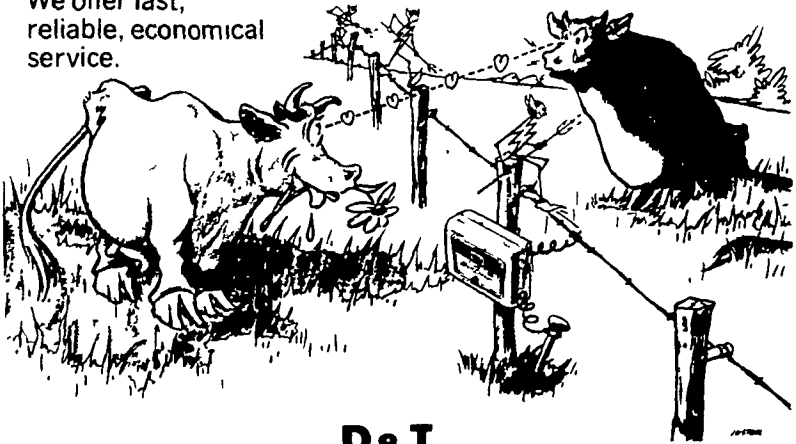
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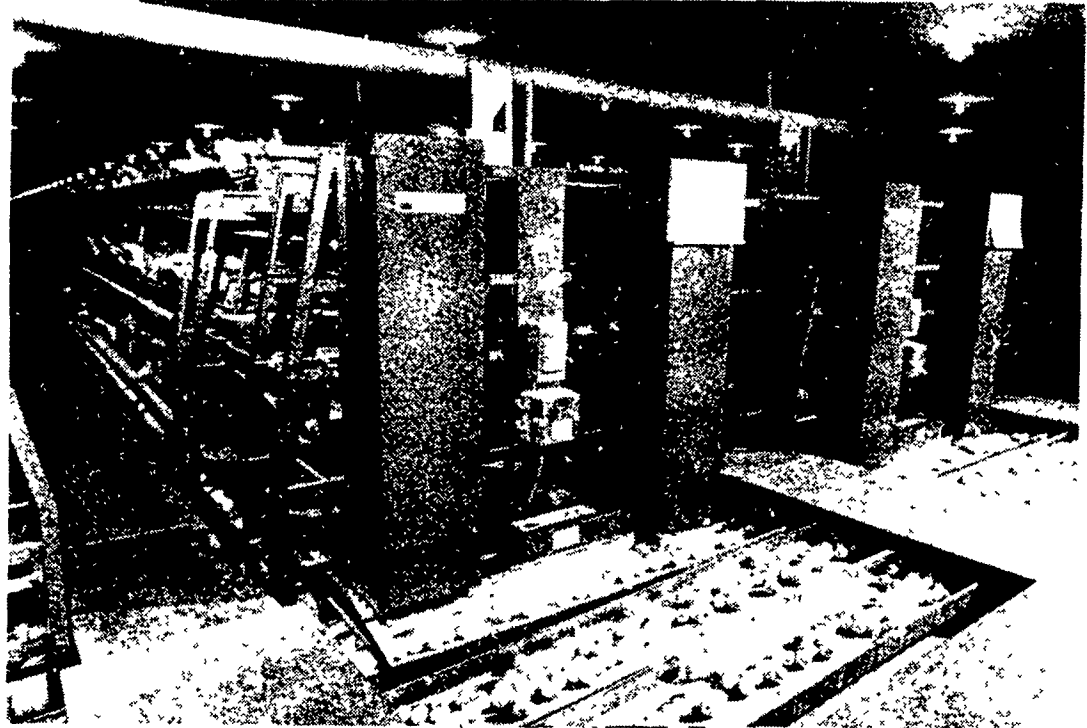


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