

Hunterdon, N.J. plans PIK meeting

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Concern on the part of farmers, and others, for weeds on the Conserving-Use and PIK acres has resulted in many questions regarding best care for those acres during the "out-of-production" year. The Hunterdon Co. Extension has enough calls to prompt scheduling a summer weed control meeting, specifically to discuss "Weed

Control on PIK and Conserving-Use Acres."

The date will be Tuesday, 8 p.m. here in the Hunterdon County Extension Center.

Principal topic will be the options for weed control on PIK acres. As growers know, the ASCS regulations clearly state that weeds shall not be allowed to spread. That means they cannot be

allowed to flower and set seed. And for many plants, that time is fast approaching.

Regulations require that a cover crop must be maintained to prevent erosion, except for fields with last year's corn plant residues left on the surface.

So one option is to establish cover, and then mow periodically.

Use of herbicides is also ac-

ceptable, but permission should be obtained from the ASCS office before using many of these herbicides.

The herbicides must be registered for use on agricultural crops and also those which will not injure crops to be planted later.

On The Program

Main speaker on this program will be John Meade, Specialist in weed science at Rutgers. He will discuss the alternatives available to the farmer to keep weeds under control. He points out that the August 15 deadline date for far-

mers to mow their PIK acres is fine, but many of weeds will have set their seeds by that time. "Earlier and frequent mowings may be called for...or herbicides may be a choice," he says.

The regulations set by the ASCS and its committee should be followed, but good crop management may require special considerations.

Also on the program will be a staff person of the ASCS state or county office to explain the agency's role in monitoring the PIK program.

Tex. cattle quarantine proposed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to quarantine Texas cattle for brucellosis after a comment period, rather than contesting a U.S. District Court's ruling on a June 1 emergency quarantine, according to a USDA official.

"Any final quarantine will be based upon public comments received by July 25," said John K. Atwell, deputy administrator for veterinary services for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "In the interim, we hope the Texas governor and legislature will take action that will make a quarantine unnecessary."

USDA announced an emergency quarantine of Texas cattle for brucellosis on June 1. However, the move was enjoined by the U.S. District Court in Austin, Texas.

"Our decision to withdraw the emergency nature of the quarantine notice was based in part on the Texas governor's willingness to place the Texas brucellosis issue on the agenda of a special session of the Texas legislature," said Atwell.

"Also, providing for a comment period now should allow the quickest resolution of this issue," he said.

Brucellosis, sometimes called Bang's disease, can cause pregnant cows to abort or to give birth to weak calves. The disease has a variable and sometimes lengthy incubation period.

Under quarantine provisions, only cattle from "qualified herds" can be shipped out of state for breeding. To qualify, a herd must pass two negative herd tests for brucellosis within 120 days.

In addition to having the negative herd tests, individual animals being shipped for breeding must be tested and found negative within 30 days of shipment.

Requirements for moving infected and exposed cattle from infected herds and finished fed cattle from quarantined feedlots would not be changed by the quarantine.

Animals from other than qualified herds — including unsprayed heifers coming out of feedlots — must be branded with an "S" and shipped for slaughter only. Animals

from qualified herds can be shipped to slaughter without branding if they test negative within 30

days and are accompanied by a certificate, showing test results.

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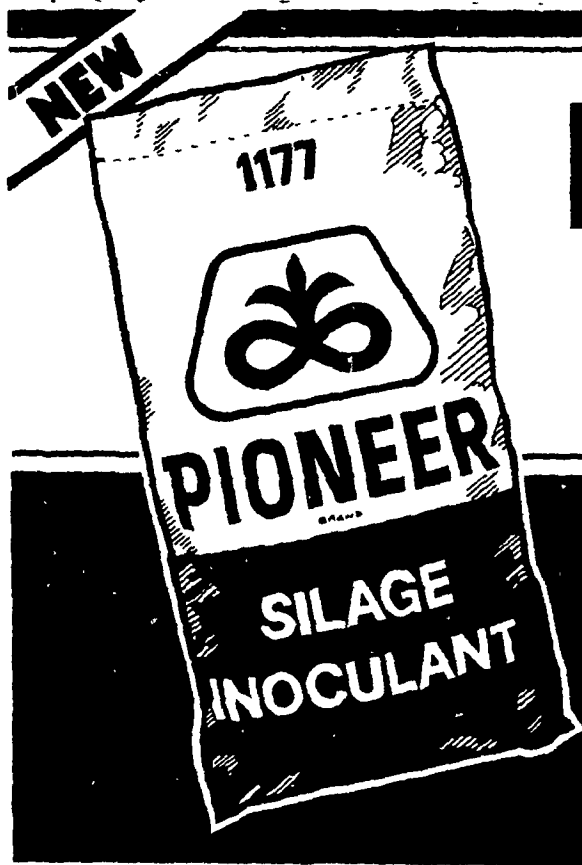
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