

PIK acres may create weed problems

LANCASTER — A major weed problem for the 1984 growing season will be increased weed pressure in some fields that were entered in set-aside programs in 1983.

"A lot of these acres — over half of them in some areas — were never seeded to a cover crop," says Dave Martin, director of marketing for Stauffer Chemical Company. "This gave the weeds a chance to come on strong."

Many farmers planned to control the weeds later in the season, Martin adds. But one or two mowings, diskings or postemergence herbicide treatments weren't always enough to prevent weeds from going to seed.

"Timing was a big problem with this approach," he says. "Some weed species germinate, grow and go to seed early in the season, while others can germinate as late as July or even August and still produce seed. It's hard to control them all with just one or two treatments."

Even where cover crops were planted, there are potential problems for next year, Martin says.

"Oats were the most common cover crop used, and they won't come back next spring. But where oat stands were thin or spotty, the

weeds came through. The pressure in these areas will be higher than it would be after a normal weed control program in row crops," he explains.

"Sorghum-sudan crosses as cover crops are another possible source of trouble," Martin adds. "If these headed out and went to seed before being cut down or turned under, they'll create a weed infestation much like shattercane next year. It'll be difficult to control."

Overall, Martin expects foxtails, velvetleaf and other common weeds to be the biggest problems; on ground coming out of PIK.

"Most farmers will be up against the same weeds they usually see, but they'll have a bigger fight on their hands," he says.

He suggests several steps for dealing with the increased pressure. The first is a PPI (preplant incorporated) herbicide program.

"Incorporated herbicides don't need rain, so they're more dependable," he says. "With this kind of weed pressure, don't take a chance on a treatment that has to be activated by the weather."

Stauffer's Sutan+ and Eradicane Extra are both PPI herbicides.



Foxtail and velvetleaf abound in this PIK field and will require special control.

Don't skimp on herbicide rates either, Martin advises. "You may even want to use a slightly higher rate than normal, within label guidelines," he says.

Three-way tank mixes are another way to boost general weed control. In corn, this means a grass herbicide plus atrazine and Bladex**. Stauffer's Sutan+ and Eradicane Extra herbicides are both registered for these three-way mixes, Martin points out.

Where tough weeds like shattercane, johnsongrass, quackgrass, woolly cupgrass or wild proso millet have proliferated, an ordinary herbicide program won't do. Left uncontrolled, these weeds can go from light infestations to major problems in just one year. "Eradicane Extra is the only corn herbicide on the market that can handle bad infestations of these tough weeds," Martin says.

Eradicane Extra will also help out on broadleaf weed populations, he says. It's labeled for control of velvetleaf, nightshade, mor-

ningglory, pigweed and others, so adding it to a triazine will improve broadleaf control.

Finally, cultivation or follow-up treatments may be needed after the corn is up. "If weed pressure is

heavy enough you can get 95 percent control and still have a problem," Martin says. "These weedy set-aside acres will be a tough test for herbicides this spring."

Weed list expanded

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Under a new U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal, 55 species of weeds would be added to the list of "import restricted" foreign noxious weeds.

The move would bring the total number of foreign weeds restricted under the 1974 Federal Noxious Weed Act from 357 to 412, said B.W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Restricted weed species can be imported into the United States only under special USDA permits.

"One weed we're proposing to restrict is the aquatic weed

Lagarosiphon, which is similar to the hydrilla weed that is clogging waterways in California and Florida," Hawkins said. "Another 40 parasitic weeds, including all species of aegineta and alecra, could significantly reduce yields of several U.S. crops. We are also proposing to restrict 14 terrestrial weeds."

The list, last expanded in May, is compiled by a group of botanists, agriculturalists and weed scientists. Although some of the weeds are found in limited areas in the United States, all are of foreign origin and could enter the country on imported products, Hawkins said.

New Park couple

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more work for the Buttorffs. Dan now puts in nine to 10 hours a day, and Ame logs about 40 hours a week working in the unit. They have split the chores so that the workload is manageable. Dan is in charge of the breeding, gestation and finishing phases, and Ame takes care of the farrowing and nursery quarters. She also keeps the books. They have two daughters, 14 and 10 years old. "The children have been helpful and understanding when Dan and I are working late," Ame says.

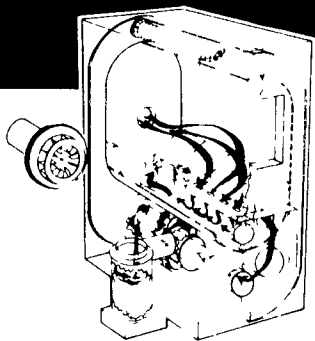
More work does not equal more frustration, however. "I like being in charge of my own life and my

own destiny," Ame says. "It's a family farm and it's fun working together." Dan agrees.

Both Ame and Dan feel that without their gilt producing herd, they still would be juggling a full-time job and part-time farming responsibilities, and struggling to pay the bills. "Becoming a Kleen Leen breeder made a big difference in our operation," Dan says. "We are now able to farm full-time and we're making it work." By incorporating breeding stock production, into their operation, the Buttorffs completely changed their farming methods, and as a result, their lifestyle.

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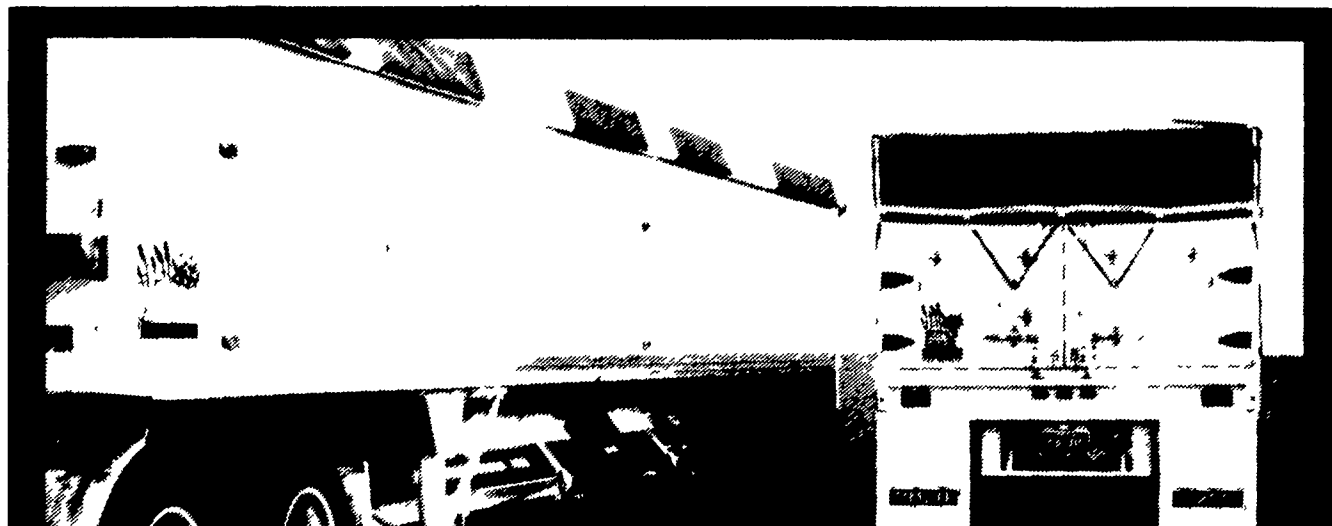
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