

Consider each field for insecticide decisions

NEWARK, Del. — As farmers consider whether to plant corn or soybeans on 1983 set-aside acreage, many are wondering what soil insects are likely to give them trouble, as this will help determine the choice of crop. According to University of Delaware extension pest management specialist Joanne Whalen, the decision should be made on a field-by-field basis.

"The likelihood of any particular insect being a problem will depend on what cover, if any, was planted into set-aside land last year, the tillage practices used in 1984, and the weather this winter and spring," says Whalen. "Based on survey information collected in the Midwest and knowledge of soil insect biology, producers can use the following guidelines to assess potential insect problems and help make subsequent control decisions."

If corn is planted into set-aside acreage, problems from white grubs and wireworms should be low, she says. It is unlikely that populations will increase to economic levels in one year. The exception is where high numbers

have been consistently found in previous years. Fields that were established in sod or pasture before 1983 will have the greatest potential for damage.

Flea beetle populations were high in 1983 and were observed in set-aside acreage. This insect transmits the bacterium, Stewart's wilt. Therefore, economic levels can cause severe problems for seed producers. The abundance of this insect during the growing season is related to the severity of the previous winter. The cold weather experienced so far this winter should help lower overwintering populations of the flea beetle, Whalen says. Even so, check corn as soon as it emerges for the presence of this pest, to determine whether a rescue treatment is necessary.

Corn or soybeans planted into fields that are not tilled until this spring are more likely to suffer black cutworm or seed corn maggot damage. These fields will be attractive to egg-laying adults, which may result in larval damage to crops. Economic outbreaks of black cutworms occur in spotty areas throughout the state, the

specialist says. Therefore, rescue treatments will provide the most effective and economic control. "Seed corn maggots will be more troublesome in these fields if we experience another cool, wet spring," she says. A seed treatment of diazot + lindane will provide good protection against the maggots and also give some protection against wireworms."

Corn that is no-tilled into set-aside acreage may experience problems from cutworms, stalk borers and armyworms. The green plant growth present in these fields is attractive to egg-laying moths. Start scouting fields for signs of insect feeding as soon as the corn emerges and apply a rescue treatment when necessary, Whalen advises.

The potential for slug damage in no-tilled fields will depend on the weather at planting. Damage is most likely to occur if we have another cool, wet spring, especially in fields with a heavy mulch of corn stalks or rye. "Since slug outbreaks occur in spotty areas, the best control measure would be to apply a rescue treatment of an insecticide, or till

fields in the spring to help dry out the soil," Whalen says.

Consider each field separately when making the decision to use a soil insecticide, she concludes. In general, land that was left fallow in 1983 won't need an insecticide treatment unless the field has a history of soil insect problems or you're planting into sod. The

presence of plant debris and weeds will increase the potential for egg laying by black cutworms, stalk borers and armyworms. However, good rescue treatments are available for all of them. An insecticidal seed treatment will provide effective and inexpensive control of seed corn maggots and should be used if a soil insecticide is not applied.

Chicken Cooking Contest Deadline Nears

HARRISBURG — Your favorite chicken recipe could win you a trip to Hawaii or several other valuable prizes if you hurry!

The Delmarva Chicken Cooking Contest, formerly a tri-state competition, has been expanded to include Pennsylvania and the entire northeastern United States. The expanded contest area gives anyone from Pennsylvania an opportunity to enter. All you need is a delectable idea for preparing broiler-fryer chicken, whole or any part or parts.

Entries should be sent to Delmarva Chicken Cooking Contest, RD 2, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947. Deadline for entries is March 1.

Participants' recipes should make four to eight servings and total preparation time should not exceed three hours. More than one entry per contestant is permitted.

Top prize is a 10-day, expense paid trip for two to Hawaii plus \$1,000, a Frigidaire microwave oven, LP gas grill, Sunbeam mixer, Wear ever cookware and a collection of McCormick spices. Second and third place winners will share prizes valued at more than \$3,000.

In addition, 26 finalists (two from each eligible state) will receive expense paid trips to the cook-off finals in Salisbury, Maryland, June 8 & 9. Judging will be based on appeal, taste, ap-

pearance and ease of preparation.

Each recipe must be typed or printed on a separate sheet of paper with the contestant's name, address and telephone number included.

The contest is sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., the trade association which represents the poultry industry on the Delmarva Peninsula.

A previous cook-off winning recipe follows:

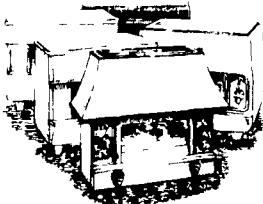
Chicken Ole'

8 broiler-fryer chicken thighs
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1 package taco seasoning mix, divided
1½ cups tomato juice
one 16 oz. can vegetarian baked beans
¾ cup raw rice

In a large baking pan, place the chicken skin side down. Pour butter over chicken. Sprinkle half of the taco seasoning mix over chicken. Bake, uncovered, in a 400 degree oven for 15 minutes. Remove chicken from baking pan and set aside. In the baking pan, mix together tomato juice, water, beans and rice. Return chicken to baking pan skin side up. Sprinkle the remaining half of taco seasoning mix over chicken. Return pan to oven and bake uncovered, for about 45 minutes or until liquid is absorbed and fork can be inserted in chicken with ease. Makes 4 servings.

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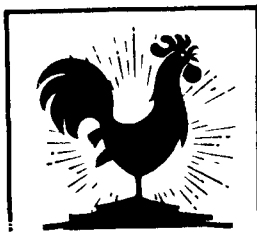
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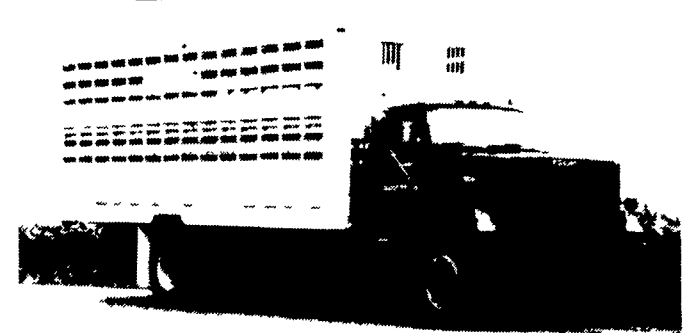
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