

# Heavy weed pressure expected

LANCASTER — Farmers who participated in last year's PIK program may need to step up their fight against weeds in 1984, according to Kie Janzen, weed control specialist for Stauffer Chemical Company.

that weeds grew unchecked and produced abnormally large amounts of seed in many set-aside fields last summer. Heavy weed pressure will be the result this spring.

"A lot of the set-aside acres — over half in some areas — were

never seeded to a cover crop last spring," he says. "This gave the weeds a chance to come on strong."

Many farmers planned to control the weeds in mid-summer by mowing, disking or spraying contact herbicides. But timing was often the downfall of this strategy, Janzen explains.

"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," he says. "It's hard to control them all with just one or two treatments."

Even where cover crops were planted, there may be trouble this year, Janzen says. Oats were one common cover, but where oat stands were thin or spotty the weeds were able to come through.

"Sorghum-sudan covers are another possible source of trouble," he adds. "Most of these aren't 100 percent sterile, so if they went to seed they can create a wild cane infestation this year."

Overall, Janzen predicts that foxtails, velvetleaf and other common weeds will be the biggest problems on post-PIK acreage. He suggests several steps for dealing with the increased pressure.

The first is a PPI (preplant incorporated) herbicide treatment. "PPI herbicides like Sutan+ and Eradicane Extra don't need rain, so they're more dependable," he says. "With heavy weed pressure, don't risk a treatment that must be activated by rain."

Don't skimp on herbicide rates either, Janzen advises. You may even want to use a slightly higher labeled rate than normal.

Three-way herbicide tank mixes are another way to boost general weed control. In corn, this means a grass herbicide plus atrazine and Bladex for broad-spectrum control

atrazine carryover. Where tough grasses like wild cane, Johnsongrass, quackgrass, woolly cupgrass or wild proso millet have moved in, Janzen says Eradicane Extra with atrazine or

Bladex is the only corn herbicide combination that is effective on bad infestations. These combinations are also labeled for problem broadleaf weeds like velvetleaf and black nightshade

## Rootworm control

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catch up, apply the full chemical treatment on those earlier planted fields at lay-by time. The later planted fields can then be treated by planting."

Treating rootworms at lay-by may one day fit with integrated pest management (IPM) control programs. Entomologists generally agree that more than half of the corn fields treated with a rootworm insecticide today could probably get by without one. In fact, a recent survey by the University of Nebraska indicated that up to 70 percent of the treated corn fields in the Midwest are being treated unnecessarily, Dr. Anderson reports.

Why?

"Corn growers regard it as cheap insurance," he says. "For \$8 to \$12 per acre, they can rest assured that their crop will be protected from rootworms."

As part of his research, Bergman of Purdue is studying ways to assess rootworm populations a few weeks after crop emergence. Once developed, this could avoid a lot of needless insecticide application, he says.

"But today," he adds, "we simply don't have enough data to determine an economic threshold. We need more corollary data between root ratings, larval populations and so on before we can issue any rules of thumb. For now, we have to stick to beetle counting in August (of the previous year)."

Current scouting method for

rootworms involves counting adult rootworm beetles in late summer. As a general rule, one beetle per plant is grounds for using an insecticide the following spring, assuming corn will be planted again. Rootworms are not a problem in fields rotated from beans to corn.

Farmers have two ways to band a rootworm insecticide with a nitrogen solution. The preferred method — the one used by Dr. Bergman in his research — is applying the tank mix in a seven-inch band at the base of the corn plant. The cultivator shovel would then throw dirt over it and prevent any chemical losses to volatilization.

If a systemic insecticide is used, Clapp of Allied says an alternative might be to apply a tank mix in back of the cultivator shovel in a narrower, two-inch band. "The systemic nature of some insecticides will enable the chemical to be translocated to all of the plant's feeder roots," he says.

Liquid insecticides recommended by universities for lay-by treatments include Dyfonate, Furadan and Lorsban, all of which are compatible with Uran nitrogen solution. Some agitation in the tank is suggested. Farmers should check the insecticide's label for specific application guidelines and tank mixing instructions.

Corn growers should also consult their state's extension service for specific insecticide recommendations. Always conduct a jar test before tank mixing and applying any agrichemicals.

## Henke announces mixer

COLUMBUS, Neb. — The 90-cubic-foot Kombo Mixer manufactured by Henke Machine, Inc. gives hog producers quick efficient grain processing and feed mixing, according to Wayne Davy, company president.

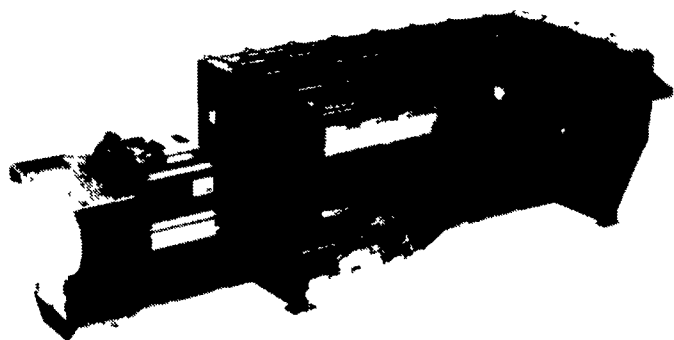
"The Kombo Mixer is basically a stationary Kwikmixer tailored to each producer's operation with either a Henke hammermill or Henke roller mill and either bottom or side discharge," Davy said.

"Three heavy, reinforced augers mix and blend dry and liquid feedstuffs in three to five minutes. Constant mixing action virtually eliminates 'dead spots' and 'boil overs' in the mixer. A safety guard located over the unit's mixer bed

helps prevent possible injuries. Energy savings are experienced as the feed mixer, alone, uses about one-fourth less horsepower than other mixers of similar capacity.

"The Kombo Mixer can be entirely disassembled for installation into existing operations. A scale for accurate measurements of grains, ground feed and feed additives is optional. All equipment parts are readily accessible for easy maintenance."

More information on the Henke Kombo Mixer and the complete line of Henke feed handling and processing equipment contact, Henke Machine, Inc., P.O. Box 1006, Columbus, NE 68601.



A 90-cubic-foot Kombo Mixer is announced by Henke Machine, Inc.

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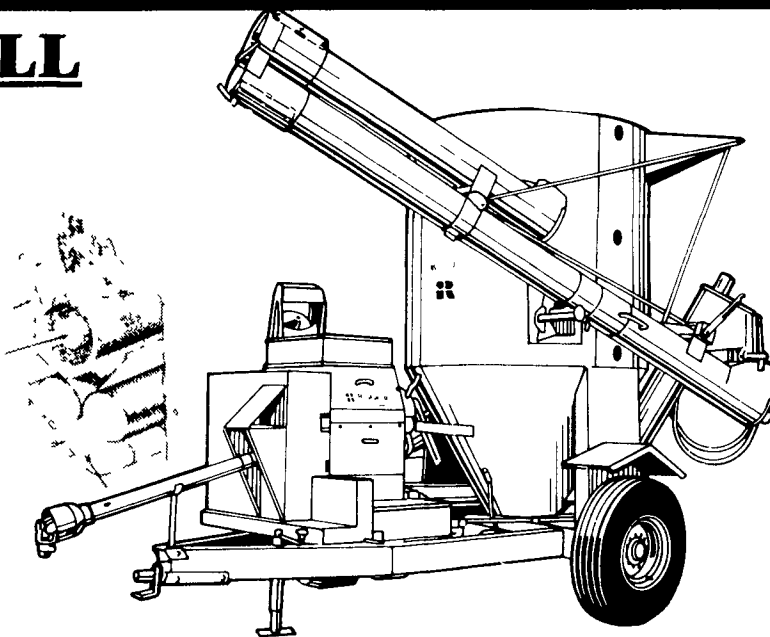
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