Conservation tillage herbicides debut

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Two new herbicides with characteristics that make them particularly well suited for use in conservation tillage systems have been introduced by Monsanto Agricultural Products Company.

One new product, Harness, is a soybean herbicide which performs well in high organic matter, and also appears to be effective in high-residue conservation tillage systems. The other product is Lasso M.E., a new formulation of Lasso which, for the first time ever, utilizes microencapsulation technology in a commercial herbicide.

Harness and Lasso M.F. were introduced as part of a national Monsanto press conference on conservation tillage.

Harness, which contains eight pounds of active ingredient in a liquid base, provides soybean growers with excellent control of labeled grasses and broadleaf weeds, even under difficult conditions

Harness controls weeds in high organic situations, making it effective for use in muck or peat soils Preliminary trials also indicate that Harness performs well in high-residue conservation tillage systems.

While the activity of most herbicides declines rapidly as soil organic levels increase, Harness offers very consistent performance. Its maximum rate is four pints per acre, even in soils with organic matter levels of over 20 percent. Many herbicides are not recommended for use in these types of soils, while others require much higher rates than Harness In addition to its performance in high organic situations, university test results indicate that Harness has superior activity against small-seeded broadleaf weeds, such as pigweed, lambsquarters, black nightshade, common ragweed and smartweed.

Harness currently is undergoing field tests under an experimental use permit (EUP) granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Lasso M.E. is the first herbicide on the market to utilize innovative microencapsulation technology in which the herbicide's active ingredient is encapsulated in tiny capsules suspended in a water base

This new Lasso M.E. formulation, which eliminates organic-based solvents, features all of the assets of the Lasso E.C formulation, while providing additional features and benefits.

Because of Lasso M.E.'s unique formulation, weed control consistency is improved in high residue conservation tillage systems. Although the exact reason for this is not known, researchers believe that more herbicides gets through the residue and into the soil to provide more consistent weed control. Testing has shown that microencapsulated formulations can provide better and more consistent weed control in high crop residue situations, when compared to non-M.E herbicide formulations.

Lasso M. E. is nonflammable and odorless. It offers excellent compatibility with herbicides and liquid fertilizers, has a very low freezing point and good resuspension properties. In addition, it has excellent handling characteristics and poses minimal problems with seals and hoses in pumps and spray equipment.

The new Lasso formulation offers the same benefits as the Lasso E.C. formulation — broad-spectrum weed control, less herbicide stress, low volatilization and photodecomposition on the soil surface, and compatibility with most other herbicides in tank mixes.

Currently labeled for use in soybeans and dry beans, Lasso M.E. also is being tested in corn under an EUP granted by the EPA.

Pfizer to hold research talks

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Advances in animal and poultry nutrition and disease research will be the focus on the 32nd Annual Pfizer Research Conference scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, at the Chicago Marriott Hotel downtown. The conference, which begins at 2 p.m., kicks off the annual convention of the American Feed Manufacturers Association.

"The Pfizer Research Conference continues to be a forum for the exchange of ideas between industry and top university scientists in animal and poultry nutrition and health," says Dr. Rendle L. Cornwell, conference chairman and vice president, science and technology, for Pfizer's Agricultural Division. "It is an integral part of Pfizer's commitment to the future of agriculture through research."

The following speakers and their topics were announced by Dr. Cornwell: Dr. Robert A. Easter, University of Illinois, "Amino Acid Supplementation of Practical Swine Diets;" Dr. David A. Roland, Sr., Auburn University, "Relationship of Calcium to Excess Feed Consumption and Fat Composition" (poultry); Dr. Jay C. Meiske, University of Minnesota, "Cattle Nutrition Research, 1983;" and Dr. Millard C. Calhoun, Texas A&M University, "Recent Advances in Sheep Nutrition Research in 1983."

B. Gentry Lee, project engineer of the Galileo Mission to the planet Jupiter for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, will be the keynote speaker. His talk, "Exploration and the Human Spirit," will explain how the seeking of new things and new frontiers is the basis for successful evolution and adaption by both individuals and civilization. Dr. Lee is a recipient of NASA's Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement for his contributions to Project Viking, the first successful spacecraft landing on Mars.

For the past 31 years, the Pfizer Research Conference has been attended by several hundred nutritionists, feed manufacturers, government personnel, university scientists and others associated with the feed industry. The conference Proceedings are a highly regarded synopsis of research information for industry and educational associations, made available at the conference and subsequently from Pfizer Inc.

Farm slide show available

YORK — "Seasons in the Sun", a slide presentation by the York Co. Farmers Association is available for showing to classes and youth groups learning about agriculture.

The show follows meat, milk, fruit, vegetables, and potatoes from farm to table. It takes the viewer to a potato chip factory, a commercial dairy, a butcher shop, and a farm market as well as to numerous York County farms.

It is suitable for any group age 10 to adult interested in learning more abut where food comes from. It runs approximately one half-hour. Teachers and group leaders interested in using the show should contact Kathy Heffernan at York County Conservation District (755-0405).