

# New quackgrass control program outlined

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A newly authorized recommendation by Monsanto allows livestock producers to apply Roundup herbicide at the rate of 1 quart/acre on sod acres infested with quackgrass. This use cuts the cost of treating this tough perennial in half, according to

Monsanto Company spokesman. The new recommendation, explains Paul Sprankle, weed specialist with Monsanto, cuts the current 2 quart/acre rate to 1 quart/acre. At the new low rate, and by following a three-step control program, producers will

receive excellent control of quackgrass, while improving the palatability and quality of their forage, he points out.

"The new recommendation has been made possible by recent advances in low rate technology (LRT)," Sprankle explains. "This concept involves a reduction in water volumes, slight equipment modifications and the addition of a non-ionic surfactant."

Roundup should be applied in 5 to 10 gallons/acre of water carrier, and through low-volume spray tips such as flat fan nozzles, which provide thorough spray distribution, he notes. "We recommend these nozzles be spaced at 20 to 30 inch spacings, and angled slightly backward. Also, boom height should be oriented to maintain a 30 to 50 percent overlap during spraying."

Sprankle notes that the surfactant should be added at the rate of 2 to 4 quarts/100 gallons of spray solution. "The 2 quart rate should be used for surfactant containing greater than 50 percent active ingredient, and the 4 quart rate used when surfactant has less than 50 percent active ingredient," the weed specialist advises.

Roundup can be applied either prior to spring planting or following the cutting of alfalfa or other forage crops in the fall. For optimum results with fall treatment, timing of cutting, herbicide application and tillage is crucial, Sprankle emphasizes.

As the first step for optimum control, producers should take off their alfalfa or legume in mid to late August. "This leaves adequate time for quackgrass to re-emerge and attain proper growth for treatment with Roundup," Sprankle says. "Treatment is typically made in late September or early October when the weed is actively growing and 8 to 12 inches tall."

Next the Roundup application should be made using LRT application methods, the weed specialist suggests. LRT will ensure proper distribution and

retention of the herbicide.

Finally, a deep tillage, preferably with a moldboard plow, should follow a few weeks after Roundup treatment, but before winter freezes, Sprankle notes. "There should be no tillage for the first three days following spraying. Then a single deep tillage pass will help prepare a mellow seedbed for planting the next season."

Unlike other herbicides which can close planting options, Roundup has no residual soil activity, affording farmers

maximum cropping flexibility, the weed specialist adds.

With this approach, livestock producers can enjoy excellent control of quackgrass at an affordable cost, Sprankle insists. "Roundup has long been recognized as one of the most effective herbicides to control quackgrass on sod acres," he concludes. "The new recommendation enhances the cost-effectiveness of the herbicide by widening the areas of use for the 1 quart/acre rate."

## ABS promotes Smith

DeFOREST, Wisc. — Paul D. Miller, Vice President Sire Development for American Breeders Service has announced the appointment of Richard G. Smith as Manager of Young Sire Development for that firm.

Smith assumes his new position after ten year's experience in managing the Genetic Mating Service Program (GMS) for ABS.

Smith is a graduate of Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science. After graduation he entered Iowa State University and earned a Masters Degree in Animal Science with course work in Animal Breeding, Dairy Nutrition and Ag Economics. He joined ABS in March 1974.

In his new assignment Smith will be responsible for the acquisition of young dairy bulls for ABS and for the supervision of ABS Regional Sire Analysts.



Richard G. Smith

Smith, his wife, Nancy, and their two daughters live near Waunakee, Wisc.

## 2 field days planned

KEEDYSVILLE, Md. — The University of Maryland will sponsor two agricultural field days for farmers in Western Maryland Aug. 29 and 30.

Sponsored by the university's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, the field day will be held at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, on Keedysville Rd., near Keedysville, Md.

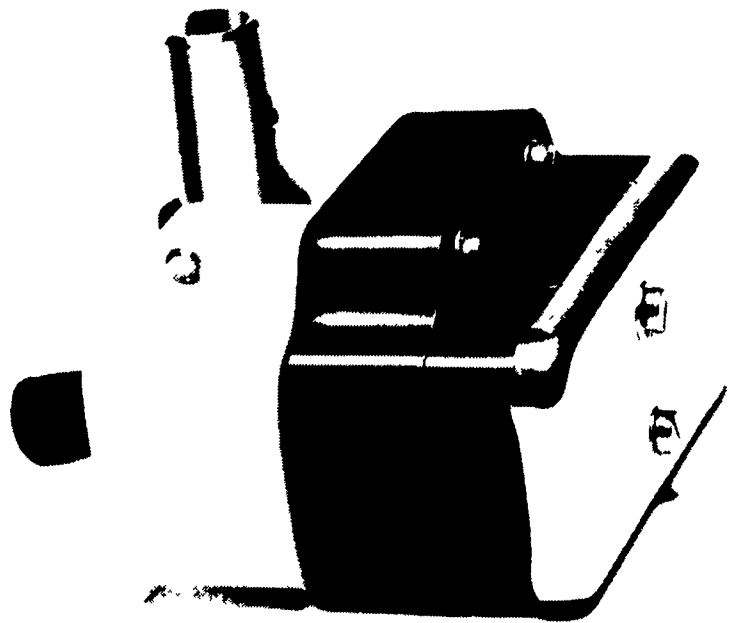
"Field days are an opportunity for the university's research and community outreach components

to show the public what we are doing to help the Maryland farmer and improve agriculture," said Dr. W. Lamar Harris, director of the university's Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES).

The first of the two days will feature horticultural research, primarily with fruit crops. The second of the two days will feature agronomic or field crops. Both days will feature equipment demonstrations.

The field days are free and open to the public. Each day's activities begin at 8:30 a.m.

## Pipeline pulsator reported



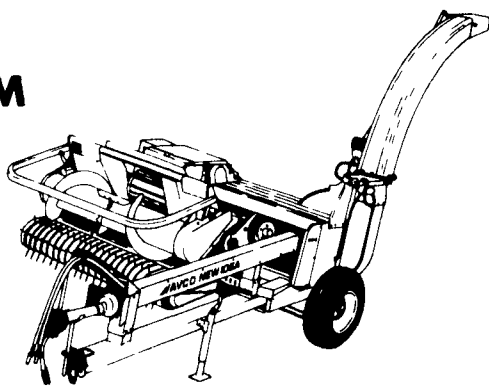
Spectra International, of Norwalk, Ct., introduces an electric pulsator and stall cock specially designed for the rapid coupling and decoupling necessary in stanchion barn pipeline systems. By modifying its standard pulsator and stall cock (interchangeable with Bou-Matic or Westfalia) Spectra has made a pulsator connection which is smoother and faster than the traditional prong insert connections of pulsators such as the Bou-Matic or Surge type.

The usual plug-in prongs on this pulsator have been replaced with round steel pads. Clips on the sides of the stall cock make positive electrical contact with these steel nodes. The connection grounds every time. The band on stall cock lends a solid base and will not loosen or twist. It is always in position for straight on coupling. Spectra's pipeline pulsator can be converted to a standard pulsator by substituting a different bottom section.

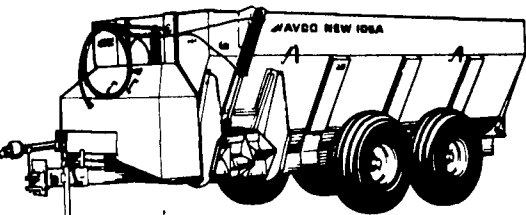
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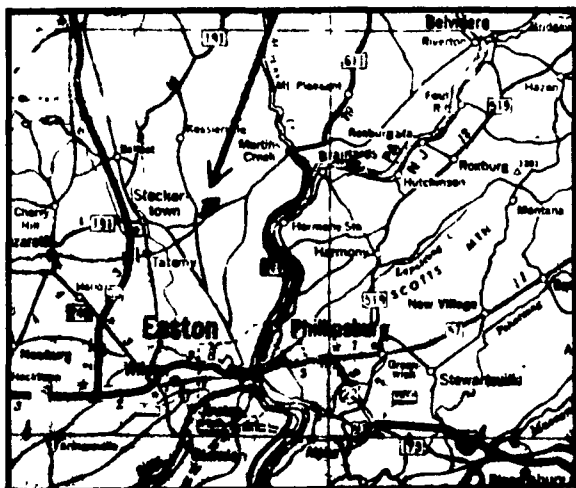
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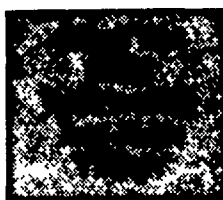
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