

Delaware IPM program nips pest problems in bud

NEWARK, Del. — Delaware field corn farmers are discovering that it pays to scout fields on a regular basis for crop pests. Since the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service introduced its field corn integrated pest management (IPM) program three years ago, participating growers have realized considerable savings through reduced pesticide applications and reduced crop losses. Last summer this program involved over 5,000 acres on 14 cooperating farms.

According to extension pest management specialist Joanne Whalen, benefits from participation included:

- Savings of approximately \$10 per acre on 30 percent of the acreage involved through reduced soil insecticide use;
- Savings of \$6 per acre on insecticide sprays for black cutworm and European corn borer on 50 percent of the scouted acreage;
- Identification of week breaks

on 10 percent of the acreage resulting in a savings of \$20,000 in crop losses;

- Weed maps showing the location and abundance of perennial weed problems;

- Improved fertility for 1986 on 10 percent of the scouted acreage where leaf tissue and soil samples were taken.

Field corn producers typically spend the majority of their time making key marketing and management decisions which prevent them from scouting their fields on a regular basis. Delaware's IPM program is helping them develop more efficient pest control practices. Here's how the program works.

From plant emergence through August, each participating cornfield is visited once a week by a scout. In addition, scouts take pre-season soil insect samples in late March to determine which fields need a soil insecticide treatment. Scouts also count early

season plant stands and assess weed infestations to help growers determine if fields should be replanted or receive post-emergence herbicide treatment. Over the growing season weekly reports on insect activity, disease infestations, and fertility problems are sent to participating growers and Whalen to use as a basis for management decisions. Finally, in August a weed map of each field is

drawn up as a record of the abundance and location of perennial and annual weeds.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service will again offer its field corn management program in 1986. To better meet grower needs, two options are available. The first—for total crop management—offers weekly insect, disease, and weed scouting services. In addition, plant

population counts, weed mapping, and soil and leaf tissue samples will be taken. The fee is \$3 an acre (excluding cost of fertility tests).

The second option—for pest scouting only—offers all the services of the first except soil and leaf tissue samples for a fee of \$2 an acre.

Farmers wishing to participate in either program should contact Joanne Whalen at 451-2526 by February 15.

Veterinary Nutrition Forum held

LANCASTER — Dr. Scott Huse, Research Veterinarian from Lee's Summit, Missouri spoke at the February meeting of the Veterinary Nutrition Forum on Pfizer's new worming delivery system, Paratect.

This product employs the dewormer Morantel Tartrate in a new delivery system, a sustained

release cartridge. This cartridge is administered orally and lays in the reticulum to do its job.

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animal and the pasture.

The next meeting of the Veterinary Nutrition Forum is scheduled for March 26. The speaker will be Mitch Woodward, Nutrient Management Specialist, PSU Extension. The topic will include Water Quality, Manure Management, and the Chesapeake Bay Program.



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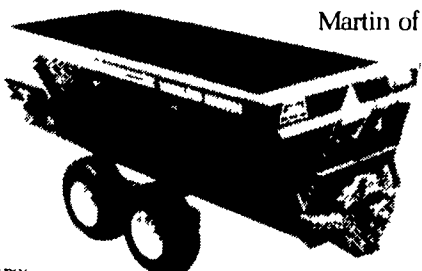
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