

Pioneer calls for increased silage inoculant regulation

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Verifiable, unbiased research data should be required to support all advertising and label claims for silage additive products and all live bacteria products should be monitored regularly to assure their viability and adherence to label claims.

"Requirements such as these would put the burden of proof of efficacy on the manufacturer — not on the consumer where it currently lies," says Bob Wichmann, president of the Eastern Division of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Inoculated silage ferments more quickly than uninoculated silage. This results in improved dry matter retention and faster stabilization which, in turn leads to longer bunk life, improved palatability and nutrient preservation.

However, because several of the companies or individuals involved in the industry have failed to

regulate themselves, a cloud of suspicion hangs over the entire industry.

"Pioneer is actively pursuing the registration and substantiation of all claims and formation of guidelines for the registration of all products which fall in the category of silage additives," Wichmann says.

"One step in the right direction has been to list the guaranteed number of colony forming units (CFUs) in a pound of product on the tag. Pioneer is currently doing this and urges other companies to follow suit.

"Another area we are addressing is providing the customer with as much information on the limits within which the product will perform, and information on good silage management.

"A requirement that all live bacteria products be monitored at regular intervals will ensure their viability and the number of CFUs noted on the tag. This will force all

producers to improve their handling of live products and help

guarantee quality products for all consumers.

"Currently, Canada is one of

very few countries closely regulating the sale of silage inoculants. They are accomplishing this by requiring all companies seeking registration to undergo tests to prove the efficacy

of their product. To date, Pioneer brand silage inoculant is one of only a few that have complied with these regulations and been granted full registration," Wichmann concludes.

SCS seeks 'Earth Team' volunteers

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The USDA's Soil Conservation Service is seeking volunteers to help implement soil and water conservation practices near their own communities.

Eileen Gough, state coordinator for the national Earth Team campaign, said that young people and others without a lot of work experience often find that their volunteer work with SCS helps in their future careers.

"Both government and private employers consider volunteer work to be qualifying experience for comparable positions," said Gough.

Gough said volunteers often

make highly visible contributions to the landscape in their communities and they always learn more about the places where they live. When volunteers assist teachers in working with pupils on outdoor classroom conservation projects, for example, they help give youngsters a head start in learning about resource conservation that will be needed in future years.

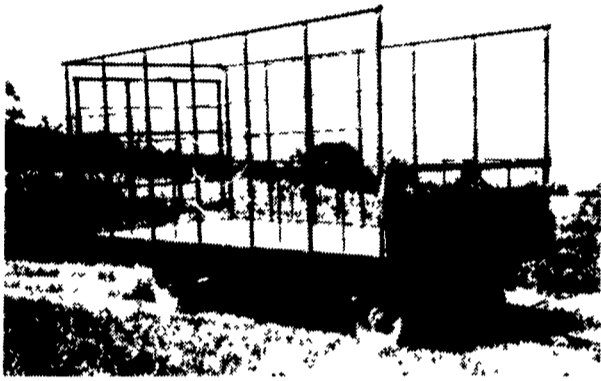
Those who want to volunteer to work with SCS or a cooperating group should call their nearest SCS office. The office is listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of

Agriculture. Applicants should tell the SCS district conservationist or other staff what work they already are prepared to do, or what type of work they would like to do.

Or They may also call a special toll-free number, 1-800-THE-SOIL, to receive information from the Soil Conservation Society of America and be referred to the SCS or other office that may need their skills.

SCS offices will ask prospective volunteers to fill out application forms. Applicants are notified as soon as they are matched with and accepted for tasks and duties in the offices where they want to work, Gough said.

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Maryland water quality meeting slated

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Planners, public officials, local health officers and other persons dealing with water resource issues in Maryland are invited to attend a symposium on "Groundwater Protection" at either of two locations.

A meeting for the lower Eastern Shore is scheduled Thursday, May 1, in the Sheraton Inn at Salisbury. An identical meeting for southern Maryland will be held Friday, May 2, in the Holiday Inn at Waldorf.

The day's schedule at each location includes registration and coffee from 8 to 9 a.m., with the program running from 9 to 4:30. A \$16 registration fee includes lunch, refreshments and educational materials.

Registration forms and copies of the program are available from

offices of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout Maryland. The registration deadline is April 23. Last-minute registrants will be accommodated at the meeting site on a space-available basis.

For the southern Maryland meeting, call Dean F. Tuthill, at the University of Maryland in College Park, 301-454-3226.

For the lower Eastern Shore meeting, call William L. Magette, at the College Park campus, 301-454-3901.



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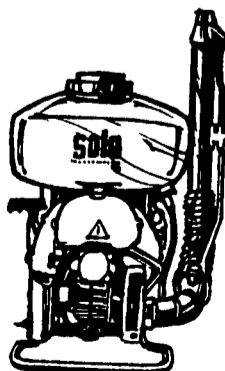
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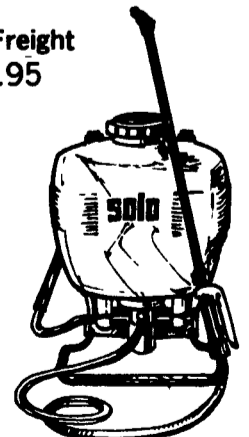
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