

Maryland Specialist Addresses No-Till Weed Problems

BY JACK HUBLEY

YORK — Farmers who suffer from weed problems in their no-till fields need to realize that there's more than one way to skin a cat...or a pigweed, as the case may be.

At last week's Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference held in York, Maryland Extension weed control specialist Ronald Ritter told farmers that options such as crop rotation and varying amounts of tillage are sometimes preferable to herbicides in no-till situations.

Some of the most common bugaboos, he said, are the triazine-resistant weeds, deep-rooted perennial weeds and perennial grasses. Two of the most common triazine-resistant weeds are pigweed and lambsquarters. Rotating from no-till corn to different crops such as soybeans is a good way of dealing with resistant pigweed, he said, since more herbicides are labeled for weed control in soybeans. Consider some form of minimum tillage if lambsquarters are a problem, said the specialist.

Dual or Lasso should be considered for preemergent pigweed control. Since postemergent herbicides may be necessary,



Ronald Ritter

Ritter recommended hitting the weeds early at a height of two to four inches. Banvel can be used on pigweed and 2,4-D works well on lambsquarters.

Corn is the best crop for dealing with perennial weeds, Ritter said. One of the best methods of dealing with the perennial broadleaf weeds

is to apply Banvel or Roundup following corn harvest but before frost. Banvel or 2,4-D provide effective postemergent protection during the growing season. Split applications of triazine herbicide are a cost-effective way of dealing with Canada thistle, according to Ritter.

Controlling perennial grasses,

such as Johnsongrass, in no-till corn poses problems, since no herbicides are approved for this application. Again, an effective strategy is to rotate to soybeans for better control options, said Ritter. Where corn must be planted, the specialist recommended incorporating Sutan or Eradicane.

Ritter also pointed out that the annual grasses posed a problem

this year largely due to the dry conditions. "One of the major problems was that the weeds were out there early pulling the soil moisture out," he said. To keep the early weeds from robbing soil moisture, Ritter recommended early preplant herbicide applications to get the jump on weeds.

Farmers To Receive Crop Insurance Payments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers throughout the country will receive more than a half billion dollars this year from the multiple crop insurance loss payments from yield and crop quality losses caused mostly by drought and excessive moisture.

E. Eugene Gantz, executive vice president, American Association of Crop Insurers in Washington, says almost 60.1 million acres of cropland were insured in 1986 with a total liability of over \$6.2 billion. Total premiums are estimated at \$381.6 million compared with about \$559 million in expected loss

payments, he adds.

This results in a national ratio of 1.47 of loss payments to total premium. Furthermore, since the federal government will pay an estimated 25 percent of the farmers premiums, the farmers cost will be only about \$285 million, therefore, farmers will receive about \$1.96 in loss payments for each dollar of premium paid.

Much of this year's losses occurred in the Southeast, according to Gantz, where farmers went most of the growing season without rain. Other areas with heavy losses included the Midwest and Upper

Great Plains. Heavy winterkill damage on winter wheat occurred in the Midwest while Montana growers again experienced drought, for the third consecutive year.

Gantz says an undetermined number of acres were harvested late in parts of the Upper Midwest, which may also result in additional yield losses.

Leading the states in total estimated crop losses payments are: Montana and Texas with \$64 million each, California with \$40 million, and North Carolina totaled \$38 million. States in the \$20-\$25 million range include Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Dakota.

The Multiple Peril Crop Insurance Program is a joint effort by private insurance companies and the federal government, protecting farmers and their families from crop losses beyond their control, Gantz explains.

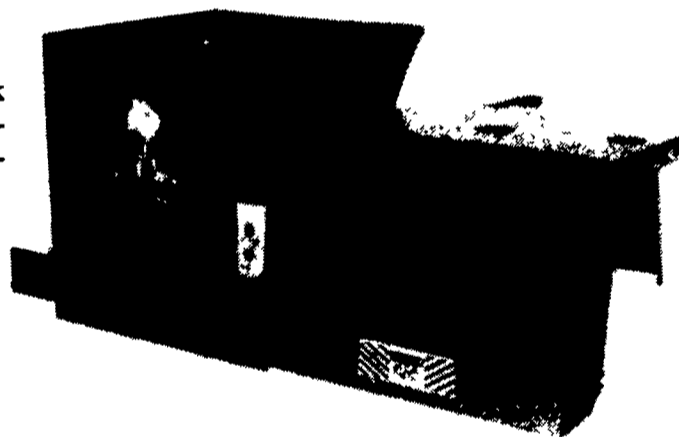
Farmers' costs for crop insurance protection are reduced by about 25 percent in direct premium subsidy from the federal government and another approximately 25 percent for administrative costs that are borne by the government.

In the five previous years that the Multiple Peril Crop Insurance Program has been operating, (1981-85) total protection in force reached \$30.4 billion; loss payments made to farmers total \$1.5 billion for the period.

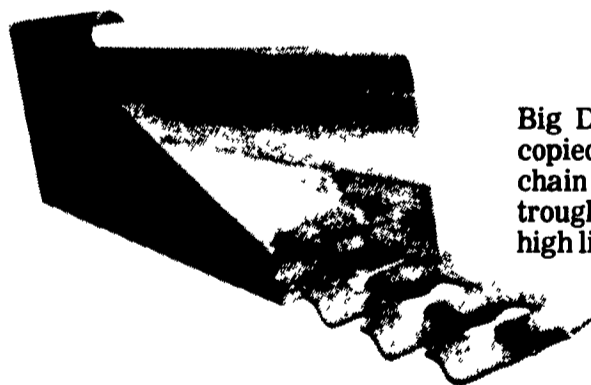
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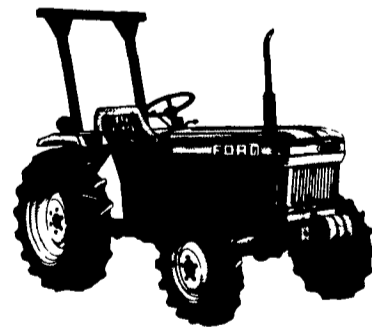


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