

Lancaster Crops And Soils Day

(Continued from Page A1)

include pest identification, proper use of specific chemicals and integrated pest management techniques.

For the 1987 license year, applicators will need two credits in Core subjects and two in Category subjects. Since each credit equals 30 minutes, the applicator can qualify with one hour of instruction in each area.

For the 1988 license year, four credits in each area will be required, and applicators whose licenses expire in 1989 will need six credits in each area. Anderson said that all new permit expiration dates will be Mar. 31, to give applicants the opportunity to take full advantage of qualifying meetings commonly held in the winter months.

From now until 1990, a grace period will be granted to applicants from the time their license expires until the following Mar. 31, Anderson said. The grace period, however, is designed only to allow applicants to accumulate update credits. An applicator may not purchase restricted-use pesticides between the time his permit expires and the time he becomes recertified.

The Department of Agriculture will issue yearly statements appraising applicators of their credit status.

Commercial Applicators

Commercial applicators will also be subject to a host of new regulations, said Anderson. For the first time, they will be required to purchase a business license for \$25. Proof of financial responsibility, commonly in the form of insurance, must also be presented.

The commercial written examination will consist of a

standard core exam for all applicants at a cost of \$50. Applicants will also be required to take one or more of the 19 available category specific exams, depending on what pesticides they will be using. Each category exam costs \$10.

The annual license renewal fee for commercial applicators will remain at \$30.

The Act also stipulates that all commercial crews must work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator, although the latter does not have to be present if a "Certified Application Technician" is on the premises. A new classification specifically created by the Act, the technician will be required to complete 30 days of training administered by a certified applicator.

One new regulation that has commercial applicators scratching their heads will require them to notify all contiguous landowners before applying restricted-use pesticides on a property. As yet, PDA has not clarified the necessary steps to comply with the statute. With the help of the State Pesticide Advisory Board, the Department is currently working on this, as well as other unfinished Pesticide Act business, and the regulations will be released for public comment or hearings prior to enactment, according to a department spokesman.

Many agronomists agree that, as pesticide restrictions tighten, a private applicators license will become a necessity for farmers who hope to exercise effective control over weeds and insects in their crops. Last year alone, eight granular insecticides, along with several wood preservatives and the popular herbicide Bladex were

changed from general-use to restricted-use status.

New Soybean Herbicides

At the same time that licensing regulations are being overhauled and labels are changing, changes are rapidly taking place in product development, according to John Yocum, senior research associate at Penn State's Southeast Research Farm near Landisville.

Yocum told Tuesday's crowd that soybean growers will have a number of new herbicide options for the coming season. The new products, including Command, Classic, Scepter and Gemini, will be more expensive than other products already labeled for soybeans, but they may prove valuable should special problems arise, Yocum said.

Yocum told farmers to pay particular attention to wind drift when applying Command close to neighboring farms and developments, since the new herbicide turns nontarget vegetation white. Despite this drawback, the herbicide is particularly effective in controlling shattercane, annual grasses and velvetleaf. It's probably the best material I've ever seen on velvetleaf," Yocum said.

Classic works well on the big-seeded broadleaf weeds, such as cocklebur and velvetleaf, said the agronomist, and when used preplant incorporated, Scepter is effective on velvetleaf, cocklebur, shattercane and bur cucumber.

Gemini should be effective in controlling the big-seeded broadleaves, as well, Yocum pointed out. "It looks like it's going to do a real good job in no-tillage," he predicted.

(Turn to Page A21)



Lancaster County participants in the state Alfalfa Growers and 5-Acre Corn Club programs were honored at Crops Day. Retired Extension agronomist Arnold Lueck (center) congratulates Nelson Wenger, (left) Manheim, and Kenneth Rohrer of Paul H. Rohrer & Sons on their 1986 yields. Wenger's 9.14 tons/acre earned him second place in Region 1, alfalfa division, and Rohrer's 9.55 tons earned him first in same class and reserve grand champion honors in state.

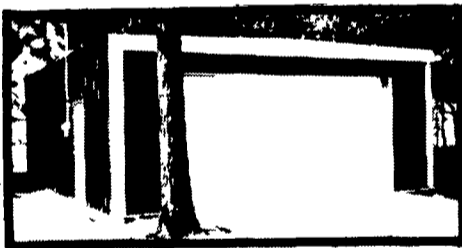


Outstanding 5-Acre Corn Club yields were posted by Galen Kopp, (left) Mount Joy, with 154.3 bushels in ear corn class; Kenneth and Jay Bleacher, Conestoga, with 179.8 bushels that earned them first place in shelled corn, 3 or more acres, division; and Dennis Eby, Gap, with 161.6 bushels in ear corn class.

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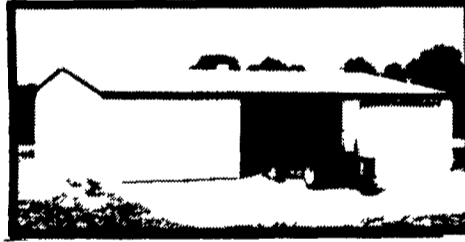
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