

New Industrial Markets Targeted At Corn Conference

ST. LOUIS — Researchers, agribusinessmen and corn farmers who attended the recent National Corn Utilization Conference in St. Louis came away from the event with a better perspective on the enormous potential for new industrial markets for the bountiful U.S. corn supply.

The conference, co-sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and Funk Seeds International, Bloomington, IL, attracted nearly 240 attendees from 23 states, Canada, Southeast Asia and Africa.

"Participant support and enthusiasm at the conference were gratifying," says NCGA President Harold Cutler, Greenville, NC. "In many instances, the conference attracted individuals who have been working in isolated areas of bioprocessing and research, with emphasis on starch conversion. As a result of this conference, we have found each other and identified common goals."

The conference was divided into three major breakout sessions and included extensive research reports on using corn and its derivatives to produce materials

and biodegradables, chemical feedstocks and ethanol fuels.

"Biodegradable plastics made from corn starch could potentially replace packaging materials, styrofoam cups, disposable service ware and other plastic products currently made from petroleum," says Dr. Ramani Narayan, Purdue University Research Scientist who chaired the biodegradables and materials session. "The technology is in place for manufacturing such items and there is a huge market out there to go after."

Narayan also reported on current high tech research being done with zein, a corn protein fiber, for use in engineering plastics as construction materials.

In the chemical feedstocks session, potential markets were identified where corn can be used to produce large volumes of commodity chemicals and smaller amounts for the specialty chemical market.

"Over 200 billion pounds of commodity chemicals valued at \$100 billion are produced annually from petroleum based products," says Dr. Charles Scott of the Oak

Ridge National Laboratory and chairman of the chemical feedstocks breakout meeting. "More than 90 percent of these chemicals can be produced from corn grain and stover, instead of petroleum."

Although specialty chemicals represent a smaller market, but one of much higher value, they can be made from corn by-products and co-products to further enhance the value of corn, according to Scott.

"Cleaning up the environment is a potential growth market for ethanol," says Dr. Lawrence Hudson of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority who chaired the ethanol breakout assembly.

Several speakers reviewed their research approach to new methods of mixing and injecting diesel-ethanol blended fuels for diesel engines. Future Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards have sparked new interest in ethanol-blended fuels for diesel users.

"The current rise in petroleum

prices, environmental concerns and technological breakthroughs for new chemical uses of corn will all play a role in the rate of growth of ethanol production," says Hudson.

"With current trends favorable toward future ethanol market growth, it is conceivable that we can meet our association's goal of producing and using one billion bushels of corn to produce ethanol in 1990," adds NCGA's Cutler.

Indemnities Available For Dinoseb

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Farmers and dealers with unused supplies of pesticides containing dinoseb may file for indemnity with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III office in Philadelphia, says David Shriver, Chief of the Pesticide Regulation Section, Maryland Department of Agriculture.

"We want everyone to be aware that indemnity forms are available and that claims must be filed with EPA for dinoseb products by July 14, 1987," said Shriver. "EPA also is accepting requests for disposal of these products," he continued. "However, safe storage of the pesticide is up to the owner until the EPA finds a contractor to handle disposal." The agency

recommends that dinoseb be stored in a dry, well-ventilated room or covered area with a concrete floor where fire prevention is provided.

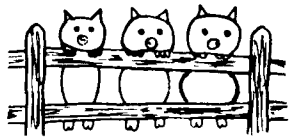
Requests for claim forms and a list of registration numbers and names of products containing dinoseb that are eligible for indemnity should be made to Don Lott, EPA Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA, 19017, telephone (215)597-9870.

After completion, indemnity claims and requests should be sent by July 14, 1987, to Special Review Branch (TS-767C), Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20460.

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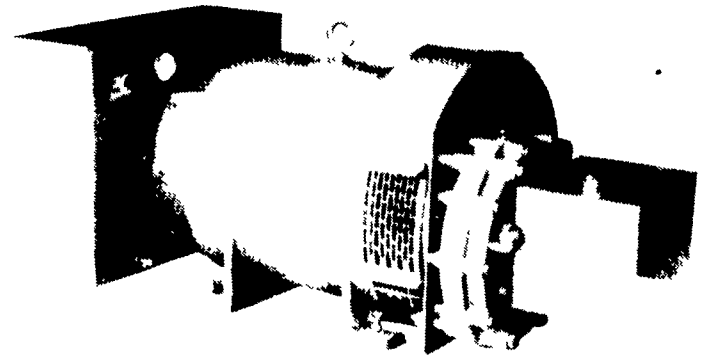
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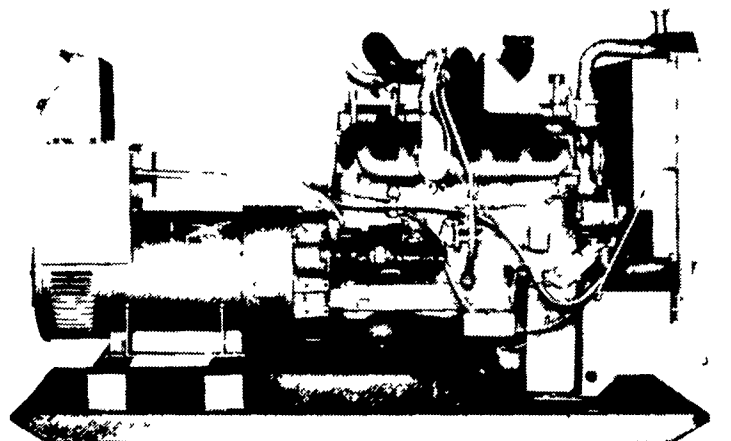
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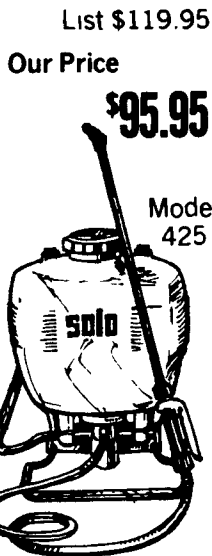
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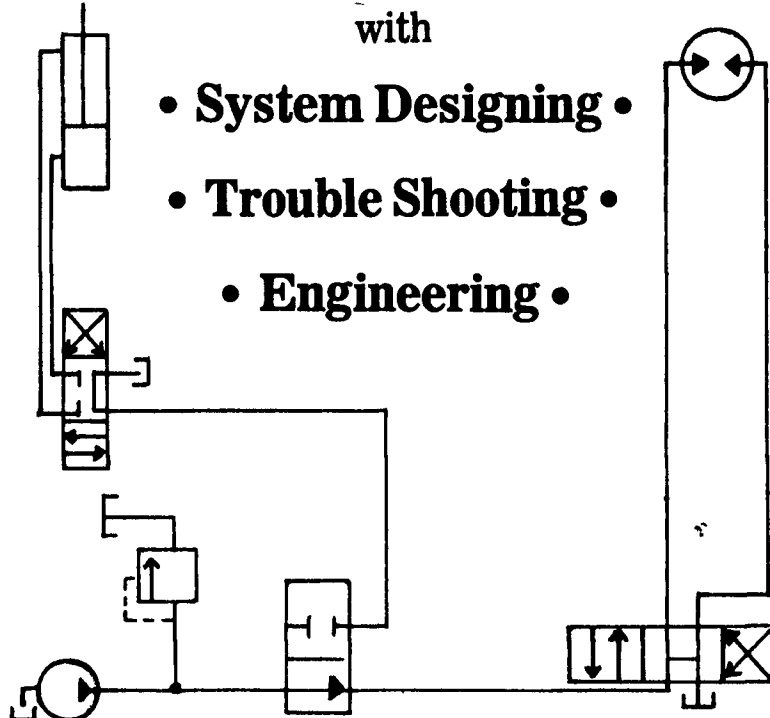
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