

Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference Scheduled

Will the falling U.S. dollar boost export sales of American agricultural commodities abroad? Or, will protective farm programs by foreign governments stifle an opportunity for U.S. producers to reduce the nation's price-depressing grain surpluses?

And, could it be that U.S. farm programs become the "sacrificial lamb" as government officials attempt to reduce the huge national debt?

Alan R. Tank, an assistant vice-president of the National Corn Growers Association, will address these and other political issues as keynote speaker on Dec. 16 for the Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference.

As a registered lobbyist in Washington, D.C., for the nation's corn producers, Tank will have up-to-the-minute information to present. He points out that Dec. 16 is the date on which Congress is due to adjourn for the Holiday season. This also is the last day for Congress to pass its continuing resolution to fund U.S. government programs.

The fourteenth annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference will be held at the Maryland State Fairground in Timonium. It is sponsored each year by the Cooperative Extension Service at land-grant universities in six states, along with interested agribusiness

supporters.

Farmers from all six states are invited to attend. This year's conference theme is "No-Tillage-- Making It Profitable." In line with that theme, six land-grant college specialists from four states will make presentations during the morning program in the Home Arts & 4-H Building.

Their topics will include cutting no-till production costs with fall-seeded legumes, residue-handling for reduced tillage crops, grain marketing, soybean weed control, alternative crops, and optimizing equipment costs. The keynote speaker will round out the forenoon educational activities.

After lunch, there will be a "Quiz the Experts" session with morning program speakers. The keynote speaker will be on the podium first.

Early arrivals at the fairground on Dec. 16 will have opportunity for visiting commercial exhibits in Exhibition Hall, beginning at 8 a.m., before the morning program session begins at 9 o'clock in the Home Arts & 4-H Building. Free coffee, milk and doughnuts will be available.

The Maryland State Fairground, site of this year's no-till conference, is located in the 2200 block of York Road in Timonium, north

of Baltimore.

For easy access from southern points, drive three miles north of the Baltimore Beltway on U.S. Highway I-83. Turn off at Exit

16A; make a left turn onto York Road, and another left at the fairground's north gate.

If coming from the north on I-83, turn off at Exit 17A and make

a right turn onto York Road. Proceed two-thirds of a mile and make another right turn at the fairground's north gate--near the Home Arts & 4-H/FFA Building.

Corn Borer Populations Up In Univ. Of Delaware Survey

Overwintering corn borer populations are up in Delaware this year, according to a survey conducted earlier this fall by University of Delaware entomologists.

The state average of 370 European corn borers per 100 plants is the highest it's been since 1981," says survey supervisor Dr. Charles E. Mason. "The average then was 474 borers. The drought this year may have contributed to the increase, since corn is more susceptible to insect attack during periods of stress. Some growers may have decided not to apply insecticides to corn that was already doomed by the drought, so higher populations could have survived in these fields."

The average number of borers per 100 plants varied widely among fields, ranging from 44 at Bay View in New Castle County to 1,220 at Felton in Kent County. These locations had the respective low and high counts last year, too.

The five fields with the highest corn borer abundance were all in Kent County, the entomologist says. That county averaged 543

borers per 100 plants compared to an average of 326 in Sussex and 241 in New Castle counties. The percentage of plants infested was high in all three counties--96 percent in both Kent and Sussex, and 80 percent in New Castle County.

Entomologists at the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station have surveyed European corn borer populations in the state each fall for the past 50 years. This information helps scientists determine population trends of the borer, a major crop pest in Delaware. The figures give a rough idea of what to expect the following spring from emerging moths.

"High overwintering counts usually mean we should keep a closer watch for problems from first generation borers," Mason explains.

Copies of the report, "European Corn Borer Fall Survey for 1987," are available from county Extension offices in Newark (451-8934), Dover (697-4000) and Georgetown (856-7303).

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