

Farmers Face Wet Weather Woes

NEWARK, DE. — It hasn't been 40 days and nights yet, so you don't need to build an ark for your livestock. But you may have to make some decisions soon about what to do with your fields, whether you've got them planted or are still waiting.

"Corn that is up may have poor color—most likely due to the cold weather," says Dean Belt, University of Delaware New Castle County Extension agent. "Some corn also may be injured by herbicide. But depending on the variety and the extent of the damage, the corn should grow out of it as soon as the weather warms up."

The heavy rains may have diluted herbicide concentrations, says Frank Webb, Extension weed specialist.

"If weeds have escaped, it's important to catch them while they are young," Webb says. "Check for weed breaks early."

Wet weather has created ideal conditions for some pests. Bob

Mulrooney, New Castle County Extension agent, warns farmers to be on the lookout for cutworms, particularly in trashy and no-till areas. A 3 percent cut-plant rate would indicate a problem, he says. Mulrooney says that seed corn maggots may also be prevalent and can cause problems for full-season, no-till soybeans.

The agent notes that the wet, cool weather is ideal for slugs and has also increased powdery mildew in wheat. He suggests that farmers continue to scout fields until flowering to assess the need for foliar applications of fungicide to protect yields.

"Cercal leaf beetles on small grains are getting to be a problem," notes Derby Walker, Sussex County Extension agent. "And begin checking barley now for armyworms. As the barley matures, armyworms will move up and start cutting heads. Wheat should be checked soon because the armyworms will move on to

that crop. You'll find heavy populations in fields with grain lodging and lush growth."

Compaction is another problem to look for, says Walker. Poor stands with uneven growth are an indication.

"If your corn is planted, but not up, dig up some of the kernels and look for rot before you decide to reseed," says Walker.

He suggests that farmers who are considering reseeding a corn field evaluate the situation carefully before making a decision.

"Wait to see what kind of stand you get," he says. "A less-than-ideal stand can be more economical than reseeding at a late date."

Growers who still haven't planted have the same concerns as those who may reseed.

"It's just about too late to plant corn because yields will suffer if corn is planted after May 20-25 without irrigation," says Walker.

"But if you insist on planting corn, be sure to plant a short-season or

100-day hybrid."

Webb says if you've used early preplant herbicide on your field and were planning for corn but couldn't get it into the ground, you still have the option of planting sorghum.

"Sorghum is usually not considered for planting in the northern part of Delaware, because the ground is so well-suited to corn," Belt says. "But with the weather situation at hand, sorghum is a viable alternative. The sandy loam and silt loam soils of northern Delaware are well-suited to sorghum. And since there has already been a shift to plant soybeans, the demand for feed grain this fall will increase. This should be reflected in prices. Switching to sorghum will allow the farmer to take

advantage of the feed grain market because sorghum will be in demand as a replacement for corn."

Belt advises growers considering sorghum to have a confirmed market before planting. Northern Delaware producers may have to haul their grain to southern Delaware for sale, he adds.

Sorghum is considered a replacement for corn according to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) guidelines. A farmer with a 200-acre contract for corn cannot plant 100 acres of sorghum in addition to 200 acres of corn. The two crops must total the feed grain guidelines.

Pork Prose

(Continued from Page D2)

For the worms that affect Pennsylvania, these anthelmintics provide a varied response:

SUMMARY A lot of compounds are available for the control of both internal and external parasites. When used properly

WORM TREATMENTS

	Rnd	Nod	Whp	Lng	Cost per 100 lb pig
Atgard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$.35
Tramisol	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$.35
Safeguard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$.20
Banminth	Yes	Yes	No	No	\$.35
Ivomec	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$.80

The cost would for worming heavier pigs with Atgard would be the same as that shown for a 100-pound pig, since dosage is same. The cost for including Banminth in the feed continuously for 5 weeks in starter feed is \$.70/pig. For good worm control, treat sows 10 days before farrowing. Treat pigs shortly after weaning.

they all work. The best parasite control program includes treating the sows before they enter the farrowing house, and treating for pigs sometime after weaning. If you can stick to that schedule, and the parasite load in your facilities is not heavy, then treatments for heavier pigs (over 100 pounds) are usually not needed.

NPPC Encouraged By USDA Response To Call For Help

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), which last week issued an urgent call to food retailers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist pork producers during the present period of low market hog prices, reports it is encouraged by the quick response.

"A number of the nation's major food retailers have told us they will make additional efforts to increase the promotion of fresh pork immediately," said Don Gingerich, president of NPPC. "We already see more reasonable retail prices being offered for fresh pork in many parts of the

nation, and we hope that will continue," Gingerich said. "There are some really good values for consumers in fresh pork at their local grocery store right now," he added.

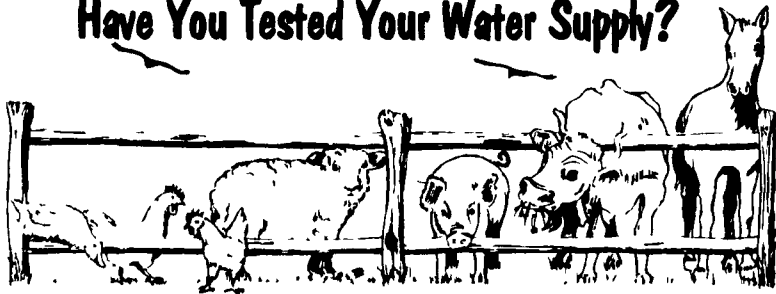
Last week, in making its appeal, NPPC said retail pork prices around the country did not properly reflect the price producers were getting for their hogs. The average producer has been losing \$17 to \$18 on every hog sold in recent weeks.

"We know we can't get this situation turned around overnight," said Gingerich, "but we

are grateful for the fast reaction and great cooperation we are getting from some of the nation's major food retailers."

The NPPC president also expressed producers' gratitude to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter for announcing that USDA would make additional purchases of pork and pork products during the next several weeks in an effort to assist pork producers during this difficult period.

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