

New Holland Summer Tour Held

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)—Officials said the annual Ciba/FMC farm tour is good public relations for the ag products companies. But their real expressed desire is to have an educational event that lets people know "we are trying to develop safer and better ways to handle pesticides and herbicides," said Steve Fisher, FMC.

Tara Soper, Ciba, agrees. "We have label changes so they fit with the environmental concerns," Soper said. "Use rates are as low as one ounce per acre. We have packages that are water soluble so there is no need for disposal, and exposure to the operator is eliminated."

Ciba's Senior Scientists Garry

Schnappinger asserts a higher degree of safety than ever before. "We can zero in on the problem rather than make a blanket application," Schnappinger said. "The narrow spectrum gives a short residual to eliminate environmental concerns."

Jeff Stoltzfus, instructor, adult farmer program, Eastern Lancaster Co. School District, worked with the tour. And the Lancaster County Extension helped too.

Stoltzfus has followed Don Robinson at the school and is credited with "doing a fine job." "I want Jeff to get a lot of credit," Fisher said. "Robinson is a hard act to follow. Jeff is a quiet young man, but he does his job well."

Bill Curran, Penn State, conducted weed identification studies, and Bob Anderson, Lancaster County extension, showed nitrogen testing methods in corn plants by using an electronic meter on the leaves.

In addition to the test plots showing the corn and alfalfa herbicides and pesticides, there were length of control studies and "goof plots" to show what to look for if dealers get a call to help solve a problem.

Four school buses filled with 140 participants traveled from the park to John Zimmerman farm, east of Blue Ball. After the farm tour, lunch was served back at the park.



A group of dealers, farm advisors, and extension personnel toured the John Zimmerman farm test plots as part of the New Holland Summer Tour sponsored by Ciba and FMC.

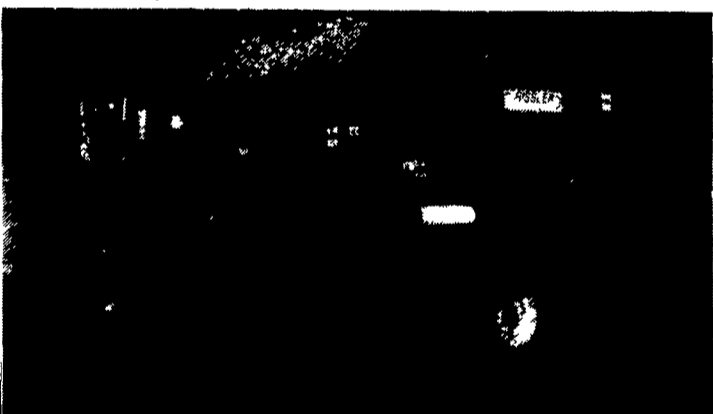
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