

CIBA Introduces New, Enhanced Products

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — On Tuesday, CIBA-Geigy Corporation introduced about 100 area agronomists to three new products the company is marketing nationwide in 1995 for use with corn and soybeans.

The event was held at the Milton Hershey School Farm, in Hershey, where demonstration plots comprised a number of acres near the farm.

The theme of the meeting was, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," and reviewed the chronological highlights of the 236-year-old company, especially in offering pesticides.

The review of the introduction of farm pesticides and herbicides wasn't entirely a direct promotion of the company's products, but an overview of the changes that have occurred since, such as significant reductions in recommended or allowable amounts to be used, plant resistance and the weed pests which grew to prominence.

The representatives said that while foxtail was a major concern, it had been successfully battled, but then fall panicum became a major weed. After chemicals were introduced to eliminate fall panicum, herbicide-resistant pigweed

became the next major weed of wide concern, followed by lambsquarter.

But with declining rates of applications, due to environmental considerations, ragweed, velvet-weed and Canadian thistle became common pests.

The future pests, according to the CIBA representatives, are most likely to be perennials and that they expect to see more use of post-emergent herbicides.

The all day presentation also carried with it a golfing theme, and began with a general introduction and weed identification game.

In golfing, many warm up by practicing short shots on putting greens that courses build for that purpose.

For the CIBA presentation, the weed identification game was designed similar to a practice-putting green. The participants were given a "scorecard" sheet and 18 different sites where they were to determine weeds, by actual immature plant.

A weed identification key — a deductive analytical tool used to get a working identification based on either the presence or lack of certain visible traits — was given to each participant.



Ron Cowman, product development specialist for CIBA-Geigy Corporation, talks to a crowd of agronomists at a field research site at Milton Hershey School Farm.

But, there were also a few weeds in the contest for which identification clues were not included in the key.

The point of the weed identification was to reinforce the concept of identifying weeds correctly before applying any herbicide.

The company spokespeople then explained that the new products include one for use as a broadcast post-emergent broadleaf herbicide for field, pop and sweet corns. The herbicide reportedly can be applied when the corn plant

is from 3 inches tall up to 48 inches tall, and, has properties which reduce drift.

However, representatives stressed that spray-boom height should be maintained at a 19- to 20-inch height above plants to prevent damage to corn.

The other new products to be introduced are really modifications of existing herbicides with the addition of an ingredient which enhances the corn plant's ability to break down metolachor, the active ingredient in the herbicides.

Specifically, the representatives said that while corn is a grass, the grass-killer chemicals are broken down naturally by a chemical within the corn plant. To enhance the protection of the corn, the new herbicides multiply the effectiveness of corn's natural herbicide fighting abilities.

They said that weed grasses do not contain any of the protective chemical that corn plant's possess, thus do not receive any enhanced abilities to resist the herbicides.

FOCUS

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Call 1-800-DHIA-7827 for information.
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How Does Your Herd Compare?

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — These data are calculated using information pulled from Pennsylvania DHIA's mainframe computer each week. It is a one-week summary representing approximately one-fourth of the herds on test, as they are tested monthly.

These data are valuable from a business management standpoint and can be used for comparing your operations to the averages from about one-fourth of the herds across the state.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 7/2/94 and 7/9/94

Number of Herds Processed	964
Number of Cows Processed	56,195
Number of Cows Per Herd	58.2
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	18,370
%-Fat	3.70
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	680
%-Protein	3.21
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	589
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	318
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	13.28
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	8.26
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.26
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.52
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.29
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,441
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	6,935
B: Hay	2,227
C: Silage	14,886
D: Day Pasture	59
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	573
B: Hay	94
C: Silage	227
D: Pasture	17
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	913
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,527
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.6
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	4.97
Avg Level For 880 SCC Herds	397,073

*Member-generated figures



At the open house of the high-rise layer house are Kathy and Rick Noll with their children Taylor, 4, and Chase, 2, and Larry Horst, sales representative.

Poultry Open House Draws 450

Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's this week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania. Remember these are averages so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

Corn, No. 2y - 2.92 bu. 5.22 cwt.
Wheat, No. 2 - 3.05 bu. 5.09 cwt.
Barley, No. 3 - 1.71 bu. 3.66 cwt.
Oats, No. 2 - 1.52 bu. 4.73 cwt.
Soybeans, No. 1 - 6.31 bu. 10.54 cwt.
Ear Corn 77.35 ton 3.87 cwt.
Alfalfa Hay - 93.25 ton 4.66 cwt.
Mixed Hay - 90.00 ton 4.5 cwt.
Timothy Hay - 101.25 ton 5.06 cwt.

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — The high-rise cage layer open house at the farm of Rick and Kathy Noll and children Taylor, 4, and Chase, 2, featured "the best of everything we know to put in here." Larry Horst, sales representative for King Construction and Northeast Agri Systems, Inc., said each of the two 108,000 new houses has the new style 53.3 sq. ft. cage with dropping boards to give the six layers per cage more room. The second house is still under construction.

Computers control the operation. For example, the water usage per row is monitored. And air flow is controlled so that environmental air within each building is completely changed every 45 seconds.

Temperatures from the top of the four tier rows to the bottom do not vary more than one or two degrees. There are six rows of cages per house.

In addition, the feeding system and the egg collection system are computer-controlled to serve the birds and bring eggs to the packer in proper quantities to keep things moving.

"This speaks well for the future of the egg business," Horst said. "You just can't raise the technology level in high rise layer houses above the level in these houses."

The eggs are under contract with Sauder Eggs in Lititz. An estimated 450 people visited the new poultry complex that was open for the entire day.

make it milk