


PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Curt Rakestraw
President, PMCGA



I would like to take this opportunity to write about the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) review of the Triazine herbicides (Bladex, Princept, and Atrazine).

Most of the corn growers in our area as well as across the country use some form of Triazine herbicide in their weed control program. We use it because it is fairly inexpensive, it works well in all types of tillage practices, it tank mixes well with a number of other herbicides, and it is relatively safe to handle.

Should the EPA ban Triazines, we would also lose more than 20 pre-tank mixes such as Bicep and Laddok.

If you are concerned about an EPA ban on the Triazines, please write to the EPA and let them know why it would be a hardship to you in your farming operations. The address to write to is Public Response and Program Resources Branch (OPP-30000-60), Field Opera-

tions Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20406.

Remember, if you don't write and these products are banned, you have nothing to complain about.

One other thing I would like to mention is the 1994 record corn crop. According to the latest USDA crop report, the American corn growers produced a 10.1 billion bushel corn crop with an average yield of 138-bushel per acre. This is a remarkable feat when you consider that it has only been 40 odd years since the national average yield was only 38 bushels per acre.

Unfortunately, record crops come with lower prices. That's the bad news. However, there is some good news in the USDA report. This is the corn usage figures.

Exports are projected to be 1.95 billion bushels, feed use is projected at 5.65 billion, and crush at 1.7 billion for a total of 9.3 billion bushels. This equals the size of the second largest crop in U.S. history. With a 7.5 percent set aside in 1995, we will need to produce another 138-bushel-per-acre crop just to meet demand.

When you look at these figures, it is hard not to be a little optimistic. Let's hope 1995 is one of those rare years which bring both good yields and good prices.

Sincerely,
Curt Rakestraw

NAFTA One Year Later: Growers Reap Benefits

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — More than a year ago, Congress voted to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) after intense debate and negotiation. Today, U.S. corn growers are among those reaping the benefits.

"Corn shipments to Mexico have surged. There is every indication they will reach 2.5 million metric tons (99 million bushels) this year, almost triple last year's sales," said Rod Gangwish, president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and a Shelton, Neb. farmer. "Through NCGA, corn growers did the hard work that made this market a reality."

As a leader of the Ag for NAFTA coalition, representing more than 175 agricultural organizations, NCGA helped NAFTA pass through a sharply

divided Congress. Corn growers participated in a massive grassroots campaign, writing and calling their senators and representatives to urge support for the trade agreement.

Their efforts paid off. Congress voted to ratify NAFTA. NAFTA took effect, linking the U.S., Mexico and Canada into the world's largest free trade zone.

Under NAFTA, U.S. corn growers have benefited significantly. During January–August 1994, U.S. corn exports to Mexico reached about 54 million bushels, compared to only 7 million bushels exported during the same time period in 1993. USDA projects that 1994 corn exports, if continued at the same pace, will ultimately total about 99 million bushels.

Early Registration Incentives Encourage Growers

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The nation's most progressive farmers are taking note of the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) 1995 Nashville, Tenn. Corn Classic location and making plans early to qualify for two enticing early-registration incentive opportunities.

NCGA's 37th annual convention and trade show will be

held at the Nashville Convention Center on Feb. 26-28.

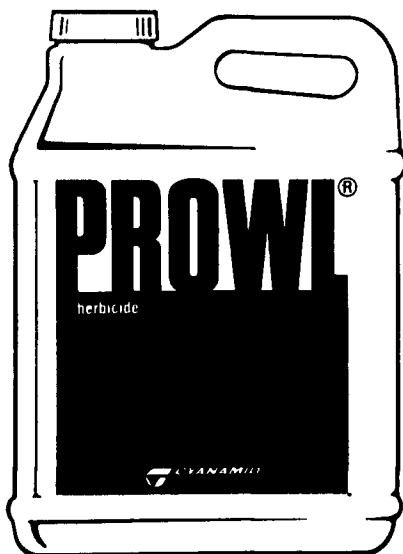
Compose a masterpiece name for the Grand Old Corn Classic's three-piece corn man band featured in the 1995 Classic logo and have the opportunity to take the stage at Corn Classic to claim one of these prizes: First Prize—an all-new Ford LS25 lawn & garden tractor; Second Prize—Ford toy

pedal tractor; or Third Prize—scale model of Genesis tractor. Winners will be announced at the 1995 Corn Classic.

Sandoz Crop Protection Corporation is planning an early-registration incentive bonus event for Saturday, Feb. 25, for the first 1,000 paid 1995 Corn Classic registrants.

To register for Corn Classic, call NCGA at (314) 275-9915.

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