

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

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ally like weeds rather than corn plants. Uneven seed distribution caused by an improperly functioning seed metering device causes more skips and doubles, which also reduce yield. Recent Purdue research has shown that this kind of yield variation in distribution can result in yield reductions of about 5 percent or so.

Nitrogen fertilizer is another area which should receive some additional attention this year during the countdown period. Prices are about 30 percent higher than last year. Many growers are thinking about cutting back a bit this year to compensate for the higher price.

My feelings are a bit mixed on this. In support of this idea, we know that most corn fields that have been fertilized with N at recommended levels for several years have some carryover and they often can get by with about 75 percent of the N recommendation and still yield well. Also, we know that the optimum N rate from an eco-

nomics standpoint is really dependent on the N fertilizer:corn price ratio.

In a year such as this, with high N prices and average corn prices, the economic optimum rates will be slightly lower. On the other hand, last year many folks outyielded their N appli-

cation program, which could contribute to lower amounts of carryover.

Weed control is another area that should require some thought in the next few weeks. New products and formulations should be considered if they can improve weed control consistency. Reviewing the control spectrum of the various new programs and comparing that to the problem weeds on your farm should be a part of your countdown activity, if you haven't already done so.

A final consideration for cash grain producers during the countdown should be consider-



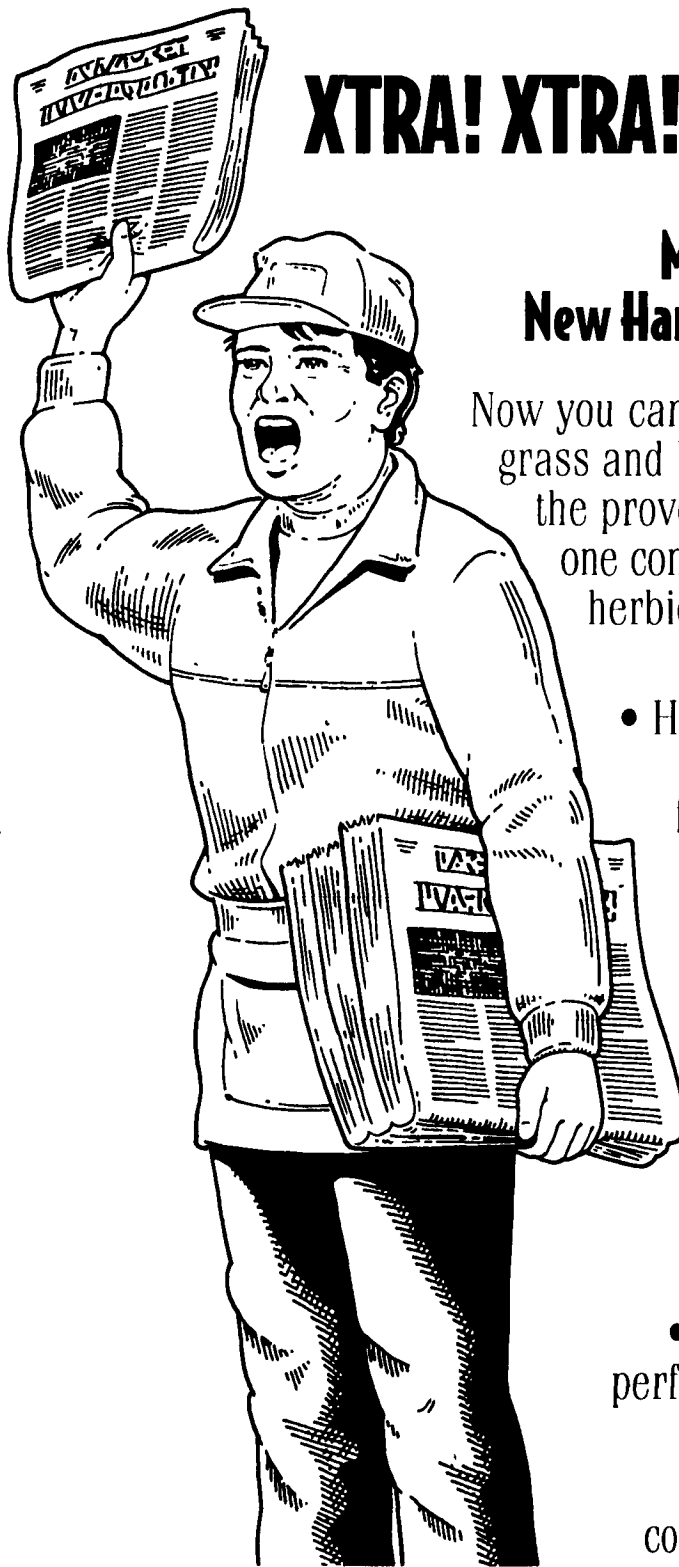
CORN TALK NEWS

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ation of their marketing plan. While I don't profess to be a marketing expert, the combination of high projected corn usage, the set-aside program this year, talk of the El Nino, and a drought in the Midwest all have some experts suggesting the potential of volatility in the corn market this summer. Being prepared for that with

your marketing plans for the 1995 crop could be important. The countdown is a critical phase of corn production. The decisions made and the planning accomplished in the next few weeks will play a large role in your success in 1995. Take time to do it well — it may be one of your best investments of the year.

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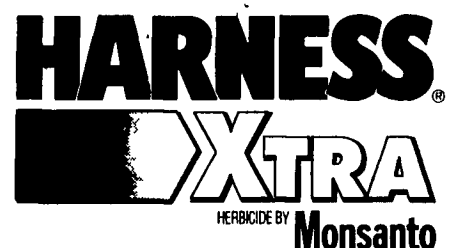
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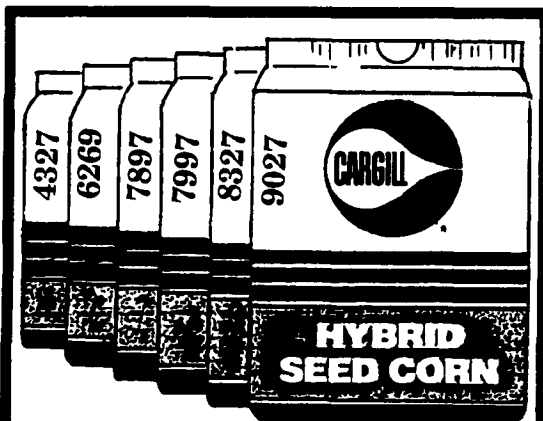
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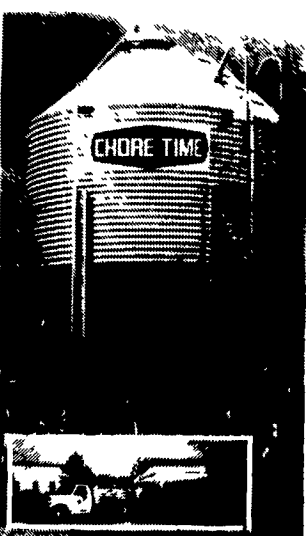


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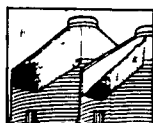
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