

# Midwestern Governors Call For Voluntary Plans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Five Midwestern governors called on Congress to include voluntary agricultural resource management plans (VARMPs) in the 1995 Farm Bill.

"Regulatory reform and voluntary compliance are inherent in voluntary agricultural resource management plans," Governors Jim Edgar (R-IL), Terry E. Branstadt (R-IA), Arne H. Carlson (R-MN), George V. Voinovich

(R-OH), and Tommy G. Thompson (R-WI) said in a letter to members of Congress. "[W]e encourage you to explore this integrated, site-specific approach to enhanced environmental stewardship."

The purpose of VARMPs is to provide the educational component which leads to the technical and financial investment to encourage the enhancement of environmental stewardship. These

plans are to be farmer- and rancher-owned, controlled, developed and implemented. Federal and state agencies should not be placed in a position to direct or mandate the contents of these plans — to do so assures this positive approach to environmental enhancement will fail. Farmers and ranchers should voluntarily make the decisions on how to protect their natural resources, not federal or state governments.

As proposed by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the VARMP concept would replace all current environmental and conservation cost-share programs at USDA with one voluntary, incentive-based program. "This will reduce confusion, pool government resources, and provide for efficient management of environmental enhancement. Its purpose is to provide technical, educational, and financial investment to encourage the enhancement of environmental stewardship," said John F. Tarburton, president-elect of NASDA and secretary of the Delaware Department of Agriculture before a USDA forum on the 1995 Farm Bill.

VARMPs are an integrated

approach, that are site-specific in their application. The concept would afford increased outreach to farmers by providing knowledge and direct government investment to farmers for implementation of the resource management plan.

Farmers and ranchers clearly support congressional efforts to offer them incentives rather than mandates to allow them to voluntarily manage their land and balance their economic needs with their land's environmental needs. Data recently released by NASDA showed that 74 percent of 1,200 farmers and ranchers surveyed in Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Mississippi believed it was important to include the VARMP concept in the 1995 Farm Bill.

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## American Cyanamid, BASF Enter Supply Agreement

WAYNE, N.J.—American Cyanamid Company and BASF announced that they have entered into an agreement in which BASF will supply Cyanamid with private brand acifluorfen and sethoxydim herbicide products.

The chemistry of acifluorfen and sethoxydim is compatible with Cyanamid's imidazolinone (imi) technology. Cyanamid's imi herbicides are effective at remarkably low application rates, and stop weed growth by inhibiting an enzyme which is not present in

mammals, but is essential to plant growth.

Acifluorfen and sethoxydim will complement Cyanamid's imi product portfolio and offer growers with additional weed management options.

Cyanamid plans to launch the new products in 1996. The products will be sold in 12 states, including Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

"We're pleased to add these products to our portfolio and provide growers with additional, effective weed management options. This alliance will benefit both Cyanamid and BASF and enable each to strengthen its position in the marketplace," said Howard L. Minigh, president, Cyanamid Agricultural Products Division.

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### SOIL COMMANDERS

The New Brillion Soil Commanders take Residue Management to the next generation of soil conservation efficiency.

The Soil Commanders are a versatile tillage tool designed to meet the needs of the mid-size farmer who uses a 150-200 HP tractor. One of the keys to the machine's versatility is that it uses interchangeable shank legs and individually mounted disk assemblies instead of a disk gang. This makes possible a machine with disk assemblies on the front and rear of the frame with chisel plow or deep-ripper shank on 15", 24", 27" or 30" spacings.



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