

For Post Control, Accurate Timing Needed

PRINCETON, N.J.—As corn growers continue to search for the most effective weed control system, recent interest in total post programs has increased. Certainly, the theory is attractive. Wait for emergence, accurately identify the target weed species, then eliminate them at precisely the right growth stage.

But across the country, weed scientists are determining that total post programs carry a high level of risk in corn. Precision timing of grass control, it turns out, can make or break the strategy.

No matter what the growing conditions, missing the ideal window of application for grasses can easily reduce yields by 5 percent to 10 percent, year in and year out.

And the window of opportunity to control grass without sacrificing yield often is as little as seven days. Miss that window, for any reason, and yields will suffer even during excellent growing seasons. Even a single mature foxtail plant per foot of row can cut yields eight percent.

Timing is particularly critical with competitive, hard-to-control grasses such as foxtail, and a number of recent research projects were designed to determine how application timing affects foxtail control and eventual yields.

One project at the University of Minnesota, which Thomas Hoverstad has been running from 1993 through 1995, is particularly valuable. Hoverstad designed his field study to determine the optimum timing for grass postemerge treatments.

Hoverstad's research shows that post applications have a very narrow application window for foxtail control—about 11 days in these studies. If the herbicide is applied too early, late weed pressure can drop yields as much as 14 percent. If it's applied too late, early weed pressure reduces yields by the same amount.

In 1993, a cool, wet year, Accent applied 17 days after planting (DAP) produced a yield 18 percent below the weed-free control plot. It took a second application at 37 DAP to control later emerging grass and raise yields to 94 percent of the control. When Accent was applied at the optimal time—26 DAP—yield reached 96 percent of the control. But waiting just another 11 days and thus achieving good late season grass control dropped yields to 85 percent of the control plot because of the early season pressure.

In 1994, which was dry early in the growing season, a single post-emerge application brought the

best results when applied 29 DAP. That plot yielded 88 percent of the weed-free control plot (statistically equivalent to weed-free control). However, when the treatment was applied seven days earlier (21 DAP), yield were only 69 percent of the control plot. And by 39 DAP, yields had dropped to 68 percent of the control plot.

"Before making the decision to go total post," Hoverstad says, "you need to ask, Will I have time to get across all my fields when it has to be done? You have to be confident you can hit that window. If it rains, you might not make it. If you have a lot of acres, that makes it even tougher."

Another total post yield trial, conducted by Jeff Gunsolus, extension agronomist at the University of Minnesota, produced similar results. Accent applied 28 to 35 days after planting on 2 to 6 inch foxtail and 7 to 11 inch corn provided the best yields. If applied any earlier, foxtail reinfested the area and reduced yields. If applied later, yields already were reduced by early season infestations.

Unfortunately, accurate timing is not always as simple as counting days after planting. There is no single formula that can guarantee success because plant growth is a dynamic process.

Applicants Sought For Achievement Award

ALBANY, N.Y.—Farmers under the age of 35 are encouraged to apply for New York Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Achievement Award.

The applicants for this prestigious honor will be judged on the success of their farming operation, their involvement in Farm Bureau, their leadership within the agricultural industry, and their involvement in community affairs. The competition is open to farm couples and single farmers. The deadline to apply is May 31.

Finalists for the state award will compete at the state convention in December 1996. The state winner

will receive a \$500 cash award from Dodge Truck and a 489 computer. The winner of the state Young Farmer Achievement Award will represent New York Farm Bureau in the national competition at the American Farm Bureau convention in Nashville in January 1997. Winner of the national title will receive a Dodge Ram pickup.

To obtain an application, farmers can contact their county Farm Bureau president or young farmer chairman, or they can call Linda Lamb, NYFB's Young Farmer Program Coordinator, at (518) 436-8495.

Vegetable Seminar Brings Basics For Success

COCKEYSVILLE, Md.—The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service in Baltimore and Harford counties is sponsoring a seminar designed to provide basic information and strategies on operating a small commercial vegetable enterprise.

Topics on the agenda include resource inventory, site selection, fertility, IPM, marketing, post

harvest handling, extending seasons, and mulches.

The program will be held at the Baltimore County Cooperative Extension Service, Cockeysville, Md., on Feb. 21, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. There is a fee of \$15 per farm. Preregistration is required.

For registration or information, call the Baltimore County Cooperative Extension Service at (410) 666-1022.

Meat Retail Educational Center Opens

CHICAGO, Ill.—Meat retailers across the country will have an opportunity to strengthen and improve meat marketing effectiveness throughout the marketing chain beginning this May when the National Live Stock and Meat Board holds the first session of its Meat Marketing Technology Center.

Instructors at the Center, located in Chicago, will provide retailers with instruction on value based meat management philosophies and systems.

Value Based Meat Management (VBMM) utilizes consumer scanning information along with information on costs and retail prices to help retailers become better meat department operators.

Ideas provided through the Center's courses will increase availability and usage of department product information, with the goal of helping deliver a better value to consumers and increased sales and market share for the retailer. The scanning information, in turn, can be used by the entire meat production channel to effect better operating decisions.

The VBMM course will be offered in two 3-day sessions. The first session of VBMM Part 1 will be held the third week in May, with initial participants to include retail partners who have been involved in the development of the program as well as a select group of new retail partners. The second session of VBMM Part 1 will be held July 16-18, and will include 8-10 new retail partners.

VBMM Part 2 will be offered to participants on an as-needed basis.

The curriculum for VBMM Part 1 includes a review of the status and trends in the meat industry, as well as information and training on the Computer Assisted Retail Decision Support (CARDS) program, the process of converting to a standardized UPC coding structure, and a methodology to ensure accurate retail information systems. A new software program

that helps further identify costs at the cut level will be introduced.

During VBMM Part 2, instructors will introduce additional software designed to link retail prices and scanning data with the cost information, allowing retailers to develop sales projections based on current and historical meat department information.

Additionally, meat department case study histories conducted by the VBMM team working with retail partners will be reviewed and discussed with the goal of providing information on the benefits gained and opportunities identified by companies that have implemented a VBMM program and are using it to assist them in making strategic merchandising decisions.

In order to successfully implement and maintain a VBMM program, the meat department must work closely with the information systems department. Each company must also have management's commitment to value-based meat management before attending the program. For this reason, it is required that partici-

pating retail companies send two or three executives with skills in meat merchandising, information systems and analysis to each class.

"We're excited about the opportunities for improving the entire meat marketing chain through the Meat Marketing Technology Center," said Lee Hall, a livestock industry executive from Lexington, Ky., and chairman of the Meat Board meat science subcommittee.

"The information gathered and shared about consumers and effective meat department management will give everyone involved in meat production better decision making capabilities."

The National Live Stock and Meat Board has been building demand for meat through industry checkoffs since 1922. On Feb. 1, 1996, the Meat Board and the National Cattlemen's Association will consolidate operations to form the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a consumer-driven organization representing all segments of the industry.

Delmarva Dairy Day Set

10:00 a.m.—FORAGE PARTICLE SIZE DISCUSSION Using Separator, Dr. Limin Kung, U of DE; John E. Hall, U of MD Kent CES.

10:15 a.m.—INEXPENSIVE MANURE STORAGE for Smaller Producers, Beth Hill/Keith Dixon, Nutrient Mgmt. Consultants, U of MD Kent CES; DELAWARE DAIRY SRF PROGRAM, Tom Wilbank, NRCS.

10:30 a.m.—YOUR FUTURE in the DAIRY INDUSTRY, Dr. Robert Yonders, Penn State.

11:00 a.m.—INVEST-

IGATING WHERE IT COUNTS, Dr. Stephen Ford, Penn State.

11:30 a.m.—RISK MANAGEMENT/TOOLS AVAILABLE, Dr. Wes Musser, U of MD.

11:50 a.m.—QUESTIONS.

12:00 p.m.—LUNCH/VISIT DISPLAYS.

1:30 p.m.—MUN (Milk Urea Nitrogen), Dr. James Ferguson, U of Penn.

2:15 p.m.—EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS, John E. Hall, U of MD, Kent CES.

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1956 Massey Harris 50, row crop utility tractor, ready for work, good tires, calcium loaded, 3pt hitch, remote hydraulic equipment, standard draw bar, heavy duty stationary draw bar, equipped w/2 gear shifts, giving you a lower speed in each gear front or reverse if so desired. Additional equipment: 2b plow, 6' Bush Hog, front & rear cultivators, 7' snowplow, original owners manual, \$5200. Retired 610-326-4950.

1977 Int. 815 combine hydro diesel w/810 13' grain head. 717/733-9318.

1979 International 1440 axle flow combine, 2900 hrs., 13', 1810 grainhead, 4R 843 cornhead, 1 owner. 814-629-9566.

1982 Deere 6620, low hrs., Indiana machine, emmaculate, 90% tires, \$26,650. 6600 diesel, 50 hrs. on engine major, \$6,500. Call Sam. 717-630-2736

1R FMC sweet corn harvester, completely rebuilt. Air blast sprayer, fiberglass tank, 300 gallon, PTO. After 6pm, (609)298-0548.

(2) 18' Meyer Quick Dump Rear Unload Wagons, 12ton Tandems, Good Cond., \$6,000/ea. or \$11,500 both. Adams Co. (717)359-9792.

2290 Case, 1985, 130hp, open cab, 20.8x38" rears, many new parts, excellent condition, asking \$9500. 609-445-4493.

245 MF, 918 original hours, diesel, w/Kelly loader, super nice, \$8500. 717/776-3276.

24' Krause disc, model 2416, good condition, field ready, \$5,000 OBO. (610)944-9945.

25 KW Katolight PTO generator, \$1895; IH 450 auto reset 3X, \$1995; IH 4500 field cultivator, 19' hyd. fold, \$1895; White 6R S-tine cultivator, \$995. 717/336-6547.

273 NH Baler w/Thrower, \$1,000; 1120 JD Tractor, New Rear Tires, \$5,500.; NH Elevator, 32', \$900; (2) 18' Wooden Bale Wagons, \$650/ea.; NI 218 ManureSpreeder, \$2,000; 479 NH Haybine, \$1,000; Dion Forage Wagon, 3 Beater w/ Roof, \$2,500; 13' International Disc, \$600; 7' Direct

Cut Forage Head Fits 890 Forage Harvester, \$700. (717)530-5818.

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