

# New Holland Summer Tour And Picnic Held

**NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)** - The Novartis and FMC chemical companies sponsored their annual summer tour and picnic on Tuesday in conjunction with the Eastern Lancaster Co. School District adult farmer program and the County extension service. Headquartered at the community park, the group spent the morning at test plots on the farms of Paul Kurtz and Eugene Martin.

Tara Soper, Novartis, said the event is educational in nature to help farmers, dealers, applicators, and extension agents to explore current problems and how new chemistry and practices are working in the field. She said in dry weather such as we are now experiencing, weeds are more of a problem because they become "hardened off" with more of a waxy coating and thus don't absorb the control as well. But at the same time, when the corn or soybeans are not growing, there are not as many new weeds coming along either.

Steve Fisher, FMC, said the test plots showed both current products and experimental products working in the field. Fisher said the pressure on alfalfa from leaf hop-

per is really strong right now. The threshold is two hoppers in 10 sweeps, but fields are yielding 10 to 12 hoppers in a single sweep. The pressure is critical because the alfalfa is not growing, but the insects are doing well.

Jeff Stoltzfus, adult and young farmer program, said some corn is starting to tassel, and this four week period is critical. Stoltzfus said he will lose several percent in corn yield each day if it doesn't rain. This week and next week are especially critical. He believes we can have an average yield if we get rain soon. But the weather patterns at the beginning of the week did not seem to promise much rain.

Stoltzfus reported good hay has been made, and wheat harvest bushels and grain weight are good. If you don't have good weed control, however, the weeds are drinking the water the crop should have and you can see these weed spots from the road in the form of stunted and spiked corn.

Specifically, the tour group was able to evaluate burcumber control options in both corn and soybeans; participate in how to control tough weeds with tillage and herbicide



A large group of farmers, dealers, applicators, and extension agents attended the Novartis and FMC New Holland Summer Tour and Picnic on Tuesday.

workshops; view new chemistry in corn and soybeans; and see test plots of blue mold control in

tobacco.

Lunch was served at noon. Pesticide license credits were avail-

able. About 160 people attended the tour and picnic.

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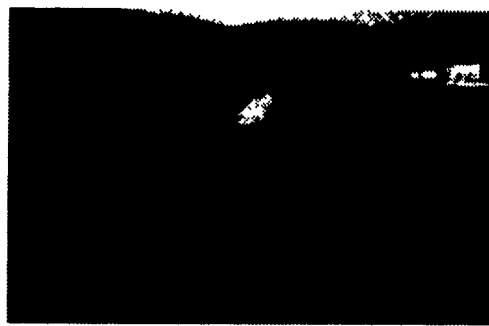
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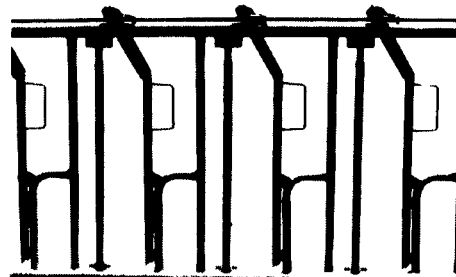
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