

# Field Day Held At Hershey

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Roundup Ready corn from Dekalb will be available in some quantities for farmers next year and widely available in 1999, growers learned on Wednesday morning during the annual Reading Bone Agway Crop Day at the Milton Hershey School.

Roundup Ready soybeans are here already and producers are making use of them.

However, these kinds of technological advances in herbicide-resistant crops don't come without a price.

According to one seed sales representative, because of the research and development dollars invested, companies "are going to charge tech fees for these enhanced products."

According to Matt Grajewski, territory sales manager, farm seed with Agway Agricultural Products, regular soybean crop spray programs to reduce weeds amount

to about \$25 per acre at a quart use rate, roughly. With the use of Roundup Ready soybeans, the cost amounts to about \$12-\$15 to spray — per application. Additional follow-up applications could add up to the same cost as a regular program, according to the sales representative.

But Roundup Ready beans provide total weed control, because growers can go back in and clean up. It's especially useful in a "dry year like this," said Grajewski.

Although they could end up costing more per acre to use, in the long these products will save on long-term herbicide and insecticide use on the fields, according to several experts who spoke during a rain-soaked Wednesday morning at the annual Crop Day.

Grajewski showed nine different varieties of Roundup ready soybeans at the crop day, including five APK Agways and four



One plot showed the effects of using a preplant and starter fertilizer on corn. Others included large equipment inspections, a weed screen, a corn planting depth study, herbicide tests, and other items.

Dekalbs. The varieties are mostly short season Group 3 to Group 4 varieties.

Grajewski noted that Roundup Ready corn will be available to growers in limited, trial amounts in 1998. Agway will have a plot of the corn at the Milton Hershey

School test site next year. He noted that Dekalb will be the only company providing large quantities of the corn for planting in 1999, although other companies will also sell the corn.

About 180 growers and agri-industry representatives had a

chance to see various demonstration plots covering forage and seed treatment. One plot showed the effects of using a preplant and starter fertilizer on corn. Others included large equipment inspections, a weed screen, a corn planting depth study, herbicide tests, and other items. Various herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide companies were also present with their products.

About 260 were registered for the crop day.

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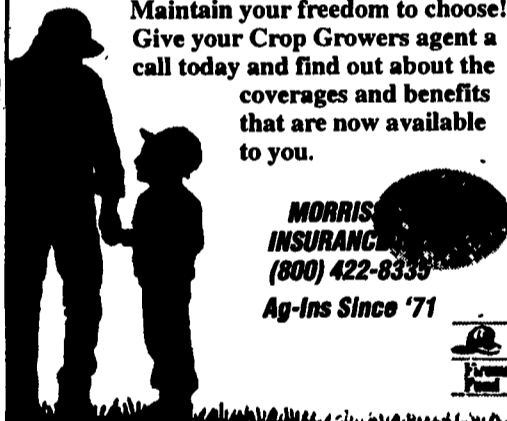
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