

Industrial Uses Symposium A Success

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The only thing more challenging than getting to the top is staying there.

The U.S. Feed Grains Council's office in Tokyo, Japan, is reminded of this reality every day.

Japan is the top importer of U.S. corn, but with competition from other exporters such as China and Argentina, the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGS) needs to continue to promote the valuable and varied uses of U.S. corn to maintain its high market share.

A recent symposium on industrial applications of U.S. value-enhanced corn did just that.

The Tokyo VEG/Supply and Demand Symposium, held in conjunction with Japan Starch & Sweeteners Industry Association, attracted participants from all over the agricultural and industrial uses community in Japan. Two hundred seventy people from starch, trading and feed companies, plus government regulators, university researchers, consumer groups, and members of the media filled the two-day symposium to capacity.

Greg Smith, corn producer from Nebraska, gave a U.S. producer perspective on value-enhanced corn while other industry experts presented their findings on genetically modified organisms, starch wet-milling practices, biodegradable plastics, and grain shipping and exporting.

"The symposium went very well," said Dennis Kitch, director USFGC/Japan. "This was a great opportunity for the Council to give the Japanese industry a clear understanding of its value-enhanced grain program."

Many participants expressed their gratitude to the Council for organizing the symposium. "The response from the participants was outstanding," Kitch said. "One of the most common statements I

heard was, 'We find the material useful and timely. Attendance is no longer a formality but a special opportunity'."

The symposium was also an opportunity to discuss the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their benefits. Diane Re of Monsanto gave a presentation on the topic and met with several key government and consumer group representatives. An article printed by the Japan Agricultural Newspaper touted GMOs as being environmentally friendly because they reduce the need for pesticides. According to Kitch, the newspaper is read by more than 90 percent of Japan's agricultural community.

The true success of the symposium was measured in the number of people who asked if the Council was going to do it again, soon. According to Kitch, the symposium raised a lot of questions. "Will Japanese consumers' calls for GMO informational labeling result in the United States taking Japan to the WTO? How will the United States respond to the growing competition from other corn exporters? What will China do? These questions will keep coming up and we will have to answer them. That may very well mean having another symposium."

Other speakers at the symposium were Catherine Otte, senior agricultural attache, U.S. Embassy; Hiroko Sakashita, associate director, USFGC/Japan; E. Takashita, USFGC biodegradable plastics consultant; Jerry Weigel, Exseed Genetics; Dr. Kent Rausch, University of Illinois; Dr. Milford Hanna, University of Nebraska; Dr. Jacob Lehrfeld, researcher; and Dan Keefe, USFGC manager of international operations.

Late Blight Has Greenhouse Tomato Growers On Alert

WOOSTER, Ohio — Late blight outbreaks in several tomato greenhouses have Ohio tomato growers on the alert.

Ohio State's Sally Miller, plant pathologist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, said the late blight disease appeared suddenly in a few Ohio greenhouses and extensive damage occurred soon after.

"Late blight appears on the tomato leaves in pale-green, water-soaked spots, often beginning at the leaf tips or edges. The circular or irregular leaf lesions are usually surrounded by a pale yellowish-green border that merges with healthy tissue," Miller said. "Lesions enlarge rapidly and turn dark brown to purplish black."

When humidity is high and the leaves are wet for an extended period, a cottony, white mold growth is usually visible on lower leaf surfaces at the edge of the lesions. When conditions are dry, infected leaf tissues quickly dry up and the white mold growth disappears. Infected areas on stems appear brown to black and entire vines may be killed quickly if moist conditions persist.

Blight also appears on fruit —

as somewhat crinkled, coppery-brown, discolored areas. The fruit may remain firm as the lesions progress. Under moist conditions, a white, fluffy mold may appear. Symptoms appear on both red and green fruit.

Miller said that all of the cases of late blight in greenhouse tomatoes observed so far have some factors in common. "The disease occurred just as warm days were turning into cold nights, and the greenhouses were not heated properly, often due to mechanical problems. The plants remained wet for long periods of time, and the relative humidity was consistently very high."

Miller also said that the fungus that causes late blight — *Phytophthora* — was often present somewhere nearby. "It could have come from tomatoes or possibly potatoes in home gardens located in the vicinity of the greenhouse. Killing frosts had not yet occurred in these areas."

New strains of *Phytophthora infestans* have recently appeared in the United States. Several of them are much more aggressive on tomatoes than the previous, widely prevalent strain. "Most of the new strains are not affected by meta-

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The 1997 Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Summit, held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), provides an arena for leaders to discuss how Kentucky can advance, develop and energize modern agriculture in today's ever-changing business and national environment.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith organized the sixth Leadership Summit with the goal of using time, effort and imagination to allow Kentucky agriculture to diversify, grow and flourish.

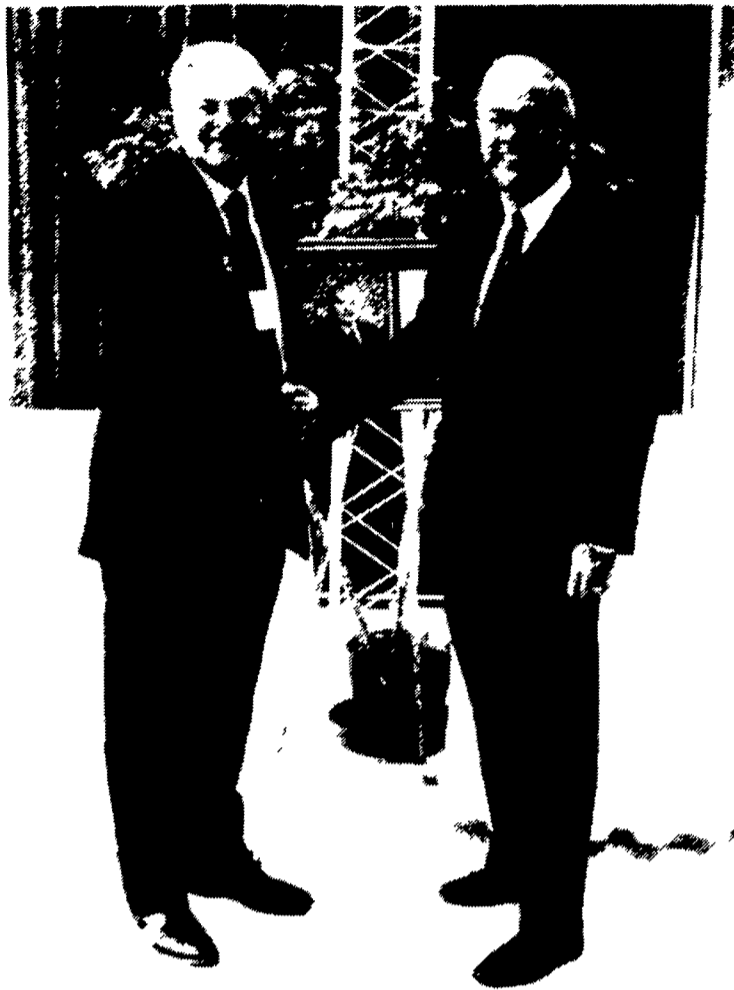
"Determine our Destiny," the theme for this year's Leadership Summit, provided an opportunity for Kentucky farm association representatives, farmers, Kentucky commodity group leaders, legislative members, agribusiness representatives and some members of the Kentucky General Assembly to explore Kentucky's future agricultural opportunities.

According to Sharon Burton, Kentucky Agriculture Council Chair, objectives of the Leadership Summit are designed to help people in agriculture work together to solve problems, share information with people outside of agriculture so they understand current agricultural issues, and remind people of agricultural accomplishments.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Office for Agricultural Marketing and Promotion Executive Director Gene Royalty said the Leadership Summit is held in conjunction with the NAILE, because those involved in changing Kentucky's agriculture are also interested in the top-quality purebred animals represented at the NAILE.

The Leadership Summit offered concurrent sessions involving marketing of crops and livestock, reaching consumers and interacting with other state's successful programs.

Representatives from the Kentucky Agricultural Resources De-



Kentucky Gov. Paul E. Patton, right, and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Billy Ray Smith are shown here during a break in a major agricultural marketing summit in Louisville. This photo was taken in the South Wing of the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, home to the North American International Livestock Exposition.

velopment Authority (KARDA) also attended the Leadership Summit to show their commitment to a bold new future in Kentucky agriculture.

Bruce Harper, KARDA chair, said, "Agriculture is changing from a production — driven to a market-driven economy. This changing marketing infrastructure will add significantly to the commonwealth (of Kentucky)." Harper's view reinforces the overall Summit theme that it is important for Kentucky to keep up with technology in order to compete in today's economy.

Kentucky Gov. Paul E. Patton attended the opening session of the Leadership Summit to support agriculture, because "agriculture is tremendously important in the preservation of Kentucky," he said. Gov. Patton said Kentucky is still a rural state that promotes rural work ethics and farm family values.

The Leadership Summit concluded Nov. 14 with a "Congressional Update of Agricultural Issues and Tobacco Settlement" as well as USDA presentation and remarks from Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Stephen L. Henry.

laxyl, a commonly used fungicide sold as Ridomil or Subdue," Miller said.

Ohio State plant pathologist Randy Rowe said the potential of this late blight disease is the main concern right now. "This disease has been causing a nationwide epidemic, and until now, we've seen very little damage in Ohio. Now, we have a flurry of it at the end of the potato and tomato season, and it's sneaking into tomato greenhouses."

Rowe said damage so far is limited — only a handful of growers have been affected by the disease. "It's not a dollars and cents issue right now because damage has been limited. The main issue of concern is next year — what Ohio growers may face through out the next season."

There are precautions greenhouse growers can take to prevent late blight from attacking their tomatoes. "Maintain greenhouse temperatures of 68 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Reduce relative humidity in the greenhouse and maintain good air circulation," Miller said. "Any practice that reduces the amount of time that plants are wet is helpful."

Miller also recommends scout-

ing the greenhouse regularly to look for symptoms of the disease. If symptoms of late blight do appear, the temperature and moisture within the greenhouse should be adjusted. "A fungicide containing mancozeb (Dithane M-45 or another formulation) may be applied to the plants if label instructions are followed. Mancozeb is a protective fungicide and will not cure infected plants," Miller said.

Mancozeb is labeled for greenhouse use but there is a five-day preharvest interval (PHI). In addition, mancozeb is an EBDC compound. Some markets may not accept fruit treated with this fungicide. There is no other fungicide effective in controlling this disease that is labeled for use on tomatoes in the greenhouse.

Greenhouse growers should remove plant parts if a small amount of the tissue is involved. "Place it in a plastic bag and either place the bag outside at night to freeze

or inside to decompose completely. The late blight fungus cannot survive on dead tissue," Miller said.

"If whole plants must be removed, cut them at the base and allow them to dry completely on the trellis after removing and destroying all of the infected fruit. If a large amount of plant matter must be disposed of, spread it outside in a thin layer when freezing temperatures are expected."

Miller warned that discarded plants should not be placed in piles — infected tissue inside the pile may be warm enough for the fungus to survive and provide spores to infect plants again next spring.

For more information on late blight in greenhouse tomatoes, contact Sally Miller or Randy Rowe, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, (330) 263-3838.

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