

July Field Clinic Offers Crop Adviser Credits

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) can obtain recertification credits at one of two Penn State-sponsored Agronomic Field Diagnostic Clinics on either Tuesday, July 27 or Thursday, July 29 here at the Russell E. Larson Ag Research Center.

According to Dwight D. Lingenfelter, assistant extension agronomist, new techniques and technologies round out the field days, featuring demonstrations on a variety of agronomic topics and overviews of existing practices and procedures.

Sessions range from agronomic crop diagnostic tools to drying forages. Topics on minimum till and corn and soybean diseases will be offered both days. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The program concludes at 4 p.m.

Producers can select five of six topics for the day, which offer a variety of credit equivalent units (CEUs) for the CCA and pesticide license credits.

Last year about 230 attended the event, about 115 each day, according to the extension agronomist. Cost for the event is \$40 per person.

Most of those in attendance included industry representatives, including ag chemical industries, seed, and other suppliers, producers, and representatives from several state agencies, including the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, county extension agents, and others.

The one-day field clinics are designed to improve the agronomic management skills of industry person-

nel, extension and public agents, crop consultants, and farmers. Specialists from Penn State and the agricultural community will provide hands-on diagnosis training in crop production, pest management, soil fertility, and soil and water conservation.

Participants can choose from a variety of topics and have ample opportunity to diagnose, solve, and discuss crop management problems and situations. In addition to gaining practical agronomic knowledge, CCA and pesticide applicator license credits can be obtained.

The program agenda includes an "Overview of Diagnostic Tools for Agronomic Crops" by Dr. Dennis Calvin, Penn State entomologist. According to Lingenfelter, Calvin, associate professor of entomology at Penn State, will address an array of tools used for crop management. Calvin will review insect scouting, soil pH kits, triazine-resistant weed test kits, the presidedress nitrogen soil test (PSNT) kit, and others. "He will hit the major hot spots," noted Lingenfelter, on identifying and managing pests of major agronomic crops. CEUs offered: 1.0 pest management (PM).

Also included will be "Toxic Principles of Livestock Forages" by Dr. David Wolfgang, field studies director of Penn State Veterinary Science. Wolfgang will examine several plant species toxic to animals, including symptoms of poisoning, and will examine naturally occurring mycotoxins in feedstuff, each from a forage standpoint. CEUs. 1.0 crop production (CP).

Dr. John Ayers, professor of plant

pathology, will discuss various diseases of corn and soybeans. CEUs: 1.0 PM.

Dr. Marvin Hall, forage specialist with Penn State, will provide a discussion on "The Dynamics of Drying Forages In a Humid Climate." Alfalfa cut in different stages will be demonstrated, including an overview of the many factors involved in forage drying. Hall will speak about the principles of moisture movement in the plant stem and leaf and how moisture evaporates and diffuses. CEUs: 1.0 CP.

Lynn Hoffman, agronomist and tillage specialist, will overview "No-Till, Zone-Till, and Adaptations to Make the Planter Work Better." Hoffman will look at corn and how tillage can be adopted for certain applications, including demonstrations of different types of coulters and row cleaners.

Hoffman, a senior research associate, will look at equipment additions to provide zone- and no-till cultivation. CEUs: 0.5 soil and water (SW) and 0.5 CP.

Finally, Dr. Doug Beegle, soil fertility specialist, will address "Water Movement In Agricultural Lands." He will look at a tilled area in a field demonstration, examine percolation rates, and how water travels down through heavy corn stalks compared to a relatively clean coverage area, among other topics. CEUs: 0.5 SW and 0.5 nutrient management (NM).

There will be a question and answer period during each presentation.

For more information, contact Penn State, (814) 863-7043 or call Lisa Crytser in the Department of Agronomy, (814) 865-2543.



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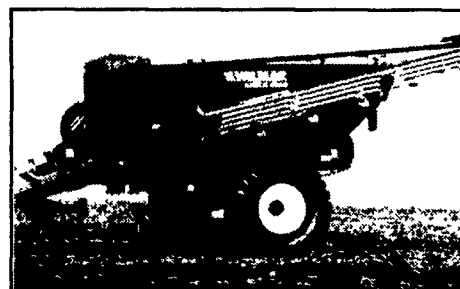
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