

Clean Farm Sprayers For Better Performance

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It may be fall, but it is still time to spring-clean farm sprayers. Now is a good time to make sure sprayers and other equipment used to apply pesticides are cleaned and ready for another season.

"Clean sprayers are key to proper pesticide management," said Joanne Kick-Raack, coordinator of the Pesticide Educa-

tion Program, part of Ohio State University Extension.

Clean sprayers reduce potential crop injury from residual pesticides left in the sprayer, she said.

Keeping sprayers clean also keeps them in top condition as pesticide residues can corrode equipment and clog nozzles, said Kick-Raack. She recommends

cleaning sprayers immediately after each use and at the end of the spraying season. Sprayers should first be flushed and rinsed, inside and out, with water to prevent the accumulation of pesticides.

In addition to the first rinse with water, the sprayer may need to be flushed with a cleaning agent because some herbicide residues can cling to plastic

tanks. Kick-Raack recommends the following guidelines taken from "The Ohio State University Weed Control Guide for Ohio Field Crops:"

- Partially fill the tank with water and add household ammonia (one gallon per 100 gallons of water) or a commercial tank cleaner. Complete filling the tank with water, then flush the cleaning solution through the boom, hoses and nozzles.

- Completely fill the tank with water again and allow it to agitate for at least 15 minutes before flushing the boom, hoses and nozzles and draining the tank.

- Finally, completely fill the tank with water again and flush the tank, boom and hoses for five minutes.

- Nozzles and screens can be cleaned separately and bare metal parts should be stored over the winter in oil.

"Clean the equipment on a pad or impermeable surface so you can recover the rinse water, which is also called rinsate," said Kick-Raack.

The rinsate legally can be used if it is labeled for the intended application crop and the amount of pesticide in the final mix doesn't exceed label rates for that acreage, she said.

Ideally, a pesticide loading, mixing and cleaning area could be built to collect water runoff

and avoid contamination, she said. Plans for building such an area are available from county offices of Ohio State University Extension. If a cleaning area is unavailable, it may be easier to manage rinsates by taking clean water to the field and cleaning empty equipment at the application site.

"Clean sprayers in an area where there is threat of runoff entering a waterway or well," Kick-Raack said.

Also avoid cleaning sprayers in the same field location multiple times. Over time, the surrounding area could become contaminated with pesticides.

"While cleaning the sprayer, be sure to wear personal protective clothing and equipment," Kick-Raack said. Cleaning still presents a risk of exposure to pesticides similar to other pesticide handling tasks. When cleaning a sprayer, wear the personal protective equipment the pesticide label requires for handling jobs, plus a chemical-resistant apron.

For more information about cleaning sprayers and other pesticide application procedures, guides are available at county offices of Ohio State University Extension. The weed control guide also is available on Extension's OhioLine website at <http://ohioline.ag.ohiostate.edu/b789/index.html>.

Pennfield Transfers Commodity Trading Division To Perdue Farms

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Pennfield Corporation and Perdue Farms, Inc. of Salisbury, Md. have reached an agreement to transfer the business of Pennfield's Ag Ingredients Group to Perdue Commodities.

According to Robert J. Buehler, senior vice president of Pennfield's Ag Products Division, Perdue assumed all commodity trading activities and obligations of Pennfield's Ag Ingredients Group Oct. 2.

"Perdue is a world leader in commodities trading and markets grains and feed ingredients

throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico," Buehler said. "Although Pennfield's Ag Ingredients Group has been a successful part of our company for the past three years, we recognize the benefits of it becoming part of a such a larger and established operation for our customers.

"This was a great opportunity for both Perdue and Pennfield," said Buehler. "Perdue can expand its commodities trading with our former customer base while Pennfield can concentrate on continuing to increase market share in all segments of

the feed and livestock nutrition business."

Buehler also noted that Mark Jakiel, former manager of Pennfield's Ag Ingredients Group, has joined Perdue and will be headquartered in a new Lancaster based office.

All existing trading contracts with Pennfield's Ag Ingredients Group will be assumed by Perdue Commodities. Correspondence and communications should be directed to Linda Nicely, Perdue Commodities, P. O. Box 1537, Salisbury, MD 21802-1537.

Perdue Commodities is part of Perdue Farms' Grain and Oilseed Division.

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JD 4455 4 post, quad range, 6,000 hrs, new tires, \$19,900. 20.8x38, axle mt duals, 50% tread for IH 1586 w/hubs, \$500. 716-554-4423.

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