

Forward Pricing Critical

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season," she said. The books reflect how busy it will be in the coming months, with many deliveries and pickups scheduled.

In season, about 200,000-300,000 bushels per week are delivered after harvest. That number drops to about 300,000-400,000 bushels per month in January.

In 1999, the year was a challenge, with low prices and drought, a double-edged sword. But Ann has seen worse. She remembers when President Jimmy Carter, in the mid-'70s, imposed a grain embargo, and corn prices dropped 20 cents in a day.

And now, where there were six grain exporters on the East Coast, it's down to one, noted Brent.

Although the free trade with China pact has removed trade barriers, it's hard to figure out what China will actually do, according to Ann.

Brazil and South America have "potential beyond belief," said Ann, to supply grain to the world. But the political and economic infrastructure there could limit their getting commodities to the world market.

The Bt corn controversy early last year turned out to be a "non-issue," said Ann for them and many other ele-

vators. They never worried about having to partition the grains accordingly — something that most considered too great a challenge.

What scares Brent is the move to corporate land ownership and large-scale, one-company, fully integrated contracting.

Agriculture "still needs everybody," Ann said, from the small to large operator. "They need all of us."

For the first time last year, Ann and Mark took a week's

vacation. They visited Nashville, Tenn. to see the sites "thanks to Brent and Deb," said Ann.

Mark, who helps with loading and unloading, "keeps everything running," Ann said. "He's a good millwright."

Brent is in charge of marketing, buying and selling of grain, unloading, and truck recordkeeping. He also operates the seed and fertilizer business in Red Lion.

Ann takes care of the office work and marketing.

Debbie takes care of the accounting and bookkeeping.

Corn Growers Must Make Extra Effort To Control Volunteer StarLink

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is urging growers who planted StarLink hybrids last year to make the extra effort to control possible volunteer StarLink corn in 2001. That may mean rotating to another crop or growing an herbicide-tolerant hybrid that lets you control volunteer StarLink.

"The danger is volunteer StarLink corn pollinating surrounding non-StarLink corn plants, further compounding the problems of keeping StarLink out of the supply of U.S. corn," said Fred Yoder, Plain City, Ohio, farmer and chairman of the NCGA Biotech Working

Group.

"Rotation is the best choice," he pointed out. "In an ideal situation for 2001, you'd rotate ground planted to StarLink last year into soybeans, oats, or some other crop that will allow you to find and destroy volunteer corn."

"But if you're locked into growing corn-on-corn you need to plant herbicide-tolerant hybrids that let you eliminate StarLink volunteers," Yoder said.

The other control options are to grow either glyphosate (Roundup Ready) tolerant hybrids or imidazolinone (IMI) Clearfield tolerant hybrids and then use those her-



CORN TALK NEWS

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"She's a good public relations person," Ann said.

Mark and Ann also have a son, Randy, with a master's degree in ag economics from the University of Minnesota. Randy is a business consultant in Manhattan, New York City. For Christmas, Ann said their son was designing a Risser Grain Website. In late

November, Randy was busy at the Holtwood location, taking photos with a digital camera to place on the Website: www.rissergrain.com.

The business operates from 5:30 in the morning to 8 at night, every day except Sunday.

bicides to kill volunteer corn and other weeds.

However, NCGA is warning farmers about the use of Roundup Ready hybrids to control StarLink volunteers. "Roundup Ready corn is not yet approved for export to the European Union and is restricted from some domestic wet-milling markets," Yoder emphasized. "Check your primary corn market before selecting this control option."

"Planting glufosinate (Liberty Link) tolerant hybrids or using conventional corn herbicides on StarLink ground will not control volunteers, because StarLink contains the LibertyLink gene," he

said. "Also, you'll need to check with your seed dealer to see whether the StarLink hybrids you planted last year were stacked with IMI. If they were, you can't control volunteer StarLink with an IMI hybrid."

The recommendation on controlling StarLink volunteers is in addition to NCGA's recent statement encouraging growers to plant seed that has been tested for Cry9C, the StarLink protein.

For more information about the National Corn Growers Association and biotechnology, visit the NCGA website at www.ncga.com.

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