

Corn Growers Applaud U.S. — Japan Quality Assurance Agreement For Food Corn

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) welcomed today's report that USDA and Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare have agreed on a standard method of testing and exporting of U.S. corn for food to Japan.

Under the agreement, Japanese importers will accept U.S. corn that has met quality assurance guidelines for testing, handling, transportation, and identity-

preservation from elevators to export ships. "Our sampling and testing will be acceptable to our Japanese customers, and that returns certainty to the marketplace," said NCGA President Lee Klein, a farmer from Battle Creek, Neb.

StarLink hybrids have been approved for feed use in the U.S., but have not yet been cleared for food use. In Japan, StarLink is not approved for food use. A feed

approval is pending in Japan.

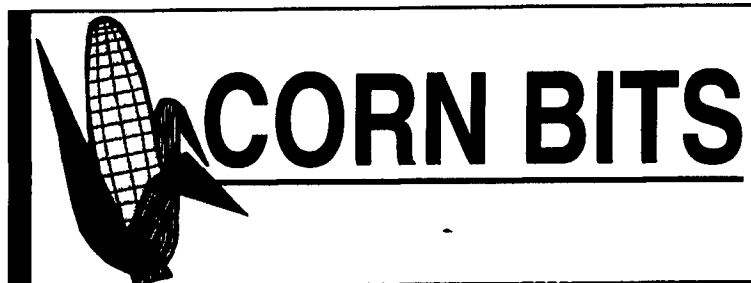
"We applaud the hard work of U.S. and Japanese officials who negotiated their way through a very complex set of regulatory issues and different testing systems to achieve a solution that answers the needs of each sovereign trading partner," Klein said, noting that NCGA Executive Vice President and CEO Rick Tolman participated in September meetings between Japanese govern-

ment officials and USDA. Those discussions laid the groundwork for the testing agreement.

"This is an indication of the trust the Japanese have in the ability of the U.S. grain marketing system to employ

a voluntary quality assurance process that meets their nation's regulatory requirements," Klein said.

NCGA expects the next developments will be feed use approval of StarLink in Japan and EPA food use approval of StarLink in the U.S.



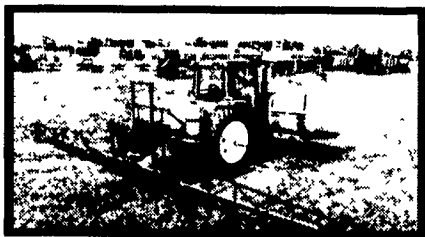
Ag Community Meets With Senator Harkin On Farm Bill

NCGA coordinated a meeting with Sen. Harkin (D-IA), his key agriculture staff and several members of commodity and livestock organizations in Washington, D.C. He spoke on a wide range of issues including emergency payments, the commodity title of the next farm bill and the tax package.

Sen. Harkin also discussed special interests, including the conservation title of the next farm bill and, specifically, his Conservation Security Act. He also addressed issues such as value added and rural development. NCGA representatives are committed to work with Sen. Harkin and the agriculture committees on many of these issues as development of the farm bill progresses. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have already initiated hearings on the farm policy.

Terry Wolf Representing NCGA As C-Far Chairman

Terry Wolf of Homer, Ill., has been named chairman of the board of directors of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR). The coalition is a newly founded, broad-based stakeholder coalition of food, agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and conservation organizations with the goals of increasing the investment in food and ag research by increasing awareness of the research's importance and value to the general public.



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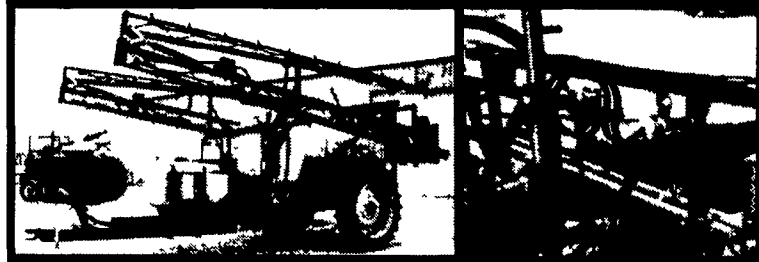
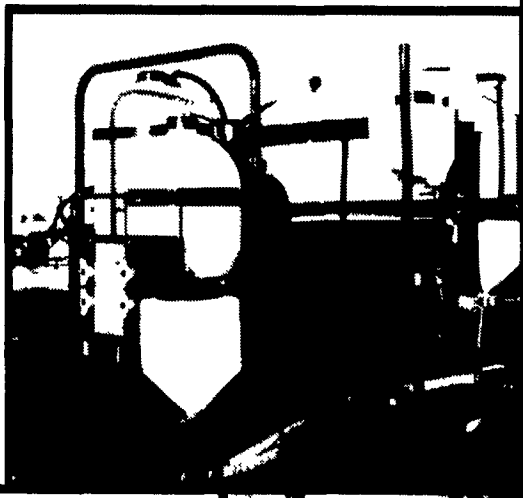
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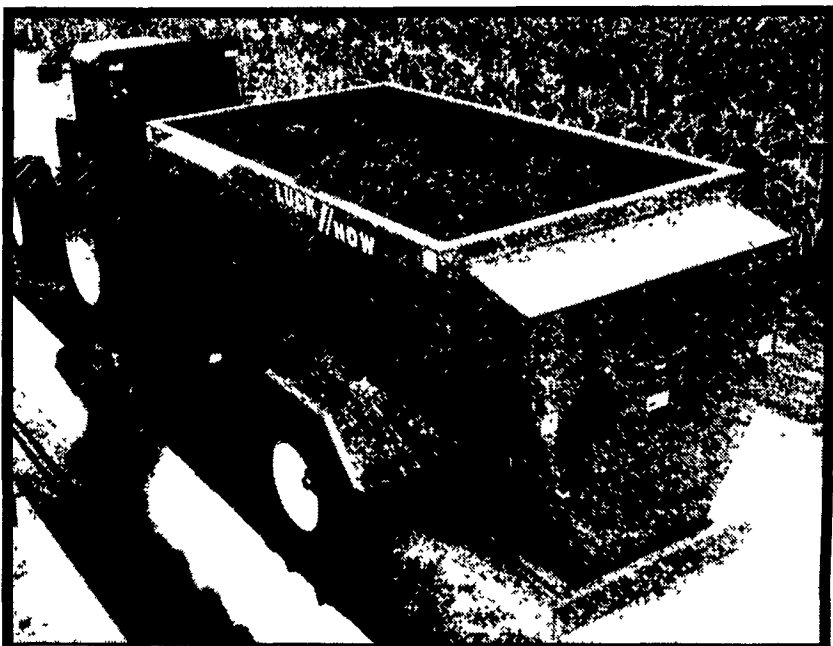
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