

York Farmers Attend Corn 'Trade School'

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fective when weevils populations explode.

A natural fungus which can destroy weevil in just three days occurs in some years, but the warm dry summers frequent to the area are not generally conducive to fungal growth.

"Good weather for hay is good weather for weevils," lamented the agronomist.

Craig believes that the 2000 infestation caught growers by surprise because the insects turned up in the first cutting. He noted that harvesting of alfalfa has changed since the last outbreak, with growers cutting earlier and generally making more cuttings, which fit well with the life cycle of the weevil, and allow for additional generations of the pest to proliferate during a growing season.

Several approved materials are available for dealing with weevils, but Craig warned about "cheating" by trying to stretch an application by diluting it. Adequate liquid carrier must also be used, so that leaves are well-wetted with any treatment solution.

"If you have south-facing alfalfa fields, those will warm first in spring. Check all fields in mid-April, then recheck at four to seven day intervals. Stop and look!" admonished Craig.

Seed Savers

For producers of corn and soybeans, some "bug" damage needs to be considered even before the seed germinates, in the form of seed-protection treatments and inoculants. Seed maggots and wireworms are two of those threats, insects which live in soils and destroy seeds before they can germinate. In cases of heavy infestations, plant population in fields can be seriously thinned by these underground seed enemies.

Seed maggots are yellow-white in color, round, legless and about one-quarter-inch long. They destroy a seed by burrowing into it. Soils with high organic matter, from heavy manure applications or green plant manure are especially prone to maggot infestations.

Wireworms are more commonly found in fields which were formerly in sod, where these pests can live for many years. The half-inch larvae are slender, shiny and cream-colored to brown.

Del Voight, pest management agent, emphasized that seed pest inoculant materials must come in contact with the seed to be effective. Putting it into the soil

anywhere else, where it does not make direct seed contact, is simply wasting time and money.

ChemSweep

Clean. Triple rinse. Remove labels.

And then look for one of the more than 500 agriculture-chemical recycling bins that will be located around the state this upcoming crop season for disposal of empty, ag-chemical containers.

The move to locate handy receptacles for the plastic chemical containers at convenient sites around rural Pennsylvania is the latest move in the state's ChemSweep program.

Triple-rinsed plastic containers gathered in the program will be run through a granulating machine, which pulverizes them into small particles which are then recycled into solid plastic usables such as fences, marine building materials, even back into chemical storage containers. The containers are expected to be available at sites such as chemical handlers and equipment dealerships, providing easy, convenient disposal for farmers.

Instituted in 1993, ChemSweep has enabled the disposition of more than a million pounds of old, unused and sometimes abandoned and unlabeled, chemicals. More than one-fourth of that total came from the southcentral part of the state, according to York extension agronomist Mark Goodson.

"Pennsylvania is unique among state programs because the unwanted materials will be picked up right at your farm. An environmental contractor will supply everything, even the technicians to pick it up," Goodson said of the ongoing program to eliminate old, unwanted crop treatment chemicals.

ChemSweep has been so successful that, after having worked the program in every county over the past several years, that the state is starting a re-run. Targeted 2001 in the Region 6 area are Dauphin, Franklin and Lancaster counties. However, Goodson urged any farmers with ag-chemicals materials they wish to have disposed of to contact their extension office to have arrangements made.

"There is no charge, no questions asked; the materials are just picked up and disposed of," adds Goodson. "It's already paid for through the pesticide program licensing fee."

For more information on ChemSweep, farmers are urged to contact their county extension offices.

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

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The butter market was very firm this week, rising from \$1.50 per pound on Monday to \$1.5025 by Friday. USDA reports that while butter inventories are beginning to build, future supplies may be limited as ice cream and cream cheese production begins to increase. That will result in more competition for cream. And, if the milk supply is tightening, butter will be a very limiting factor in the milk markets in 2001. Butter production for January was down 9.7 percent!

USDA announced the February Class IV price at \$12.70 per cwt, up \$0.57 per cwt from January. That was based on a February average NASS survey butter price of \$1.3143 per pound. The Class IV prices are expected to get even higher. As

of March 2, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Class IV futures contract prices rose to \$13.30 per cwt in March, \$13.70 per cwt in April, and \$13.72 per cwt in May. Prices got even higher thereafter, peaking at \$13.85 per cwt in August. Clearly the market is expecting butter prices to get even higher than they are right now.

Watch the butter market carefully. If the milk supply continues to tighten this month, butter prices will get even higher. That's because U.S. butter production begins to decline very rapidly past the spring flush. If you don't have it made by June, butter prices will be much higher the rest of the year.

USDA also had some interesting comments about dry dairy products. Concern about BSE and highly contagious foot and

mouth disease in the EU may start to affect the international demand for dry dairy products. That may result in increased demand for U.S. products such as lactose, whey protein concentrate, and nonfat dry milk.

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You're invited to a Dairy Meeting to update you on LANCO Dairy Farmers Co-op Inc.

Beatrice Food Group's Allentown, PA Plant would like to introduce you to a new pay incentive program for membership expansion. A Beatrice Representative will be here from Chicago, Ill. to speak and answer questions along with Lanco and Allied Personnel. Don't miss these meetings!

March 20 - 7:00P.M.

Place - John K. Kauffman Farm
1373 Beaver Dam Rd., Honeybrook, PA. 19344

March 21 - 7:30P.M.

Place - Daniel's Farm Store
Leola, PA. on 772

For More Information Call
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