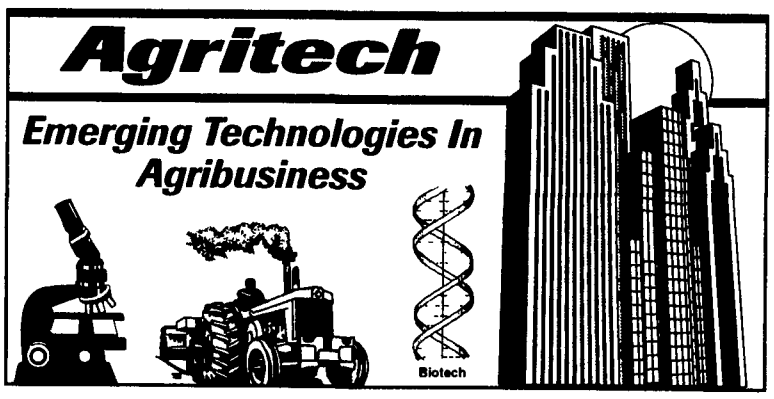


Farm Computing Booklet Available Free Online

RED WING, Minn. — The popular booklet "How to Computerize Your Farm Records" is now available for free download on the Internet by pointing your browser to www.redwingsoftware.com.

"How to Computerize Your Farm Records" not only tells the reader how to go about the search for the "right" software, but it also gives recommendations for choosing the "right" computer.

There are guidelines and checklists to help the first-time computer user (or the user looking to upgrade their system) choose the hardware and software that best fits his farm's needs.

This booklet simplifies the complicated, time-consuming process of evaluating software and choosing the right computer.

The publisher, Red Wing Business Systems, Inc., is a full service supplier of software to the agricultural industry. The company's staff includes farmers, programmers and computer analysts who have combined their expertise to develop the first practical guide for farmers choosing to computerize their farm records.

The 2002 version of "How to Computerize Your Farm Records" is available at no charge from Red Wing Business Systems, Inc., 491 Highway 19, Red Wing, MN 55066. The publication can also be requested in printed form by calling Red Wing Business Systems, Inc. toll-free at 800-732-9464.

From Dust To Dust: What You Can't See Can Hurt

GREELEY, Colo. — With today's focus on biosecurity, livestock and poultry producers can't afford to ignore the dust that collects in and around animal premises.

"Farm dust may look harmless enough, but when you take a closer look you find that farm dust contains many unseen, harmful fungi, bacteria, mold spores and other disease-causing micro-organisms," said Thomas Quan, Ph.D., microbiologist, Imu-Tec International, Fort Collins, Colo. "Cleaning and disinfection should be the first step in controlling these dust-borne organisms in order to prevent the spread of disease in livestock operations."

Loveland Industries of Greenley, Colo., is helping poultry, swine and other livestock producers take a closer look at their barnyard dust with a unique "Key Customer Dust Evaluation Program." This program evaluates the non-designated bacteria load on farms and tailors site-specific disinfectant programs.

In swine operations, dust collection focuses on farrowing, nursery and confinement areas. In poultry operations dust is collected from hatchery and poultry grow out and housing units. At other livestock facilities, dust is collected from side rails, feeder and water equipment and along building cracks and crevices, then analyzed in a laboratory.

Cleaning with disinfectants specifically formulated to control farm pathogens is essential to reducing the disease challenges that animal environments present, said Fred Schneider, animal technology unit manager, Loveland Industries. "Disinfection helps tackle the immunosuppressive viruses that are difficult to kill, as well as the common bugs known to reduce productivity such as E.coli and salmonella. This is especially important in farrowing units, hatcheries and nurseries, since newborn animals haven't developed their immune systems to help fight off diseases.

"Studies show that at least 50 percent of animal mortality occurs during the earliest growth stages," Schneider said, "and a fast-acting product with residual helps newborn animals and chicks get through that critical early-growth period, until they can start making antibodies on their own. Good sanitation is even more important as livestock and poultry producers are forced to cut back on the use of preventative antibiotic regimes."

Following disinfection, recontamination must be prevented to keep disease organisms at the lowest possible level. For that, Schneider notes, everyone entering the animal premises should be required to use a two-step footbath that first washes away manure and dirt, then disinfects with a fast-acting product such as Loveland's DC&R® Disinfectant.

Renowned Geneticist: Ag Technology Preserving Land, Feeding The World

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Advances in agricultural technology, from chemical fertilizers to genetically modified crops, are the keys to feeding more than six billion people worldwide while preserving vast expanses of uncultivated land for other purposes, says a renowned geneticist.

Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug said such limitations as availability of water and natural plant nutrients makes biotechnology and improved crop production methods that much more important in stabilizing agricultural land and battling starvation.

Borlaug offered his views on agriculture, global crop production and risk taking during a recent presentation at Ohio State University and the Wooster branch of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC).

Borlaug is an agricultural geneticist. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his contributions to the "Green Revolution," a food production movement of the 1960s that helped lift many countries out of starvation through the introduction of high-yielding wheat varieties. He's lived in food-deprived countries for more than 55 years.

Feeding the world has been possible because of agricultural technology, Borlaug said. Increased use of irrigation has made it possible to grow crops in areas that might not have been able to sustain them. Borlaug applauded the use of organic fertilizers but said they cannot replace chemical fertilizers.

"Cereals, such as rice, maize and wheat make up 70 percent of the world's food supply," he said. "In reality, 99 percent of all edible dry matter comes from the land but only one percent of Earth's water can be used to support that production.

"And when it comes to organic fertilizers, I say without qualification, use all there is, but don't let anyone tell you that we can feed 6.2 billion people without the use of chemical nitrogen."

Nearly 80 million tons of nitrogen is consumed annually through synthetic applications. To maintain that amount through organic sources — livestock manure, for example, U.S. cattle numbers would need to increase from 1.5 billion head to 10 billion head, Borlaug said.

Because of improved crop production techniques, China, India and Pakistan have increased grain production as much as sevenfold since the 1960s, Borlaug said. Global grain production has jumped 23 percent in the past 50 years, from 650 million tons to more than one billion tons.

"These improvements in yield are due to high-yielding varieties, agronomic practices, weed control, fertilizers and seeding dates, combined with economic policies that farmers have adopted and put into practice," Borlaug said. "Plus, we are producing more food on less land than we were in 1940 — all of this due to technology."

Genetically modified crops, commonly known as GMOs, will continue to play an important part in crop production, Borlaug said.

"I'm convinced biotechnology is going to help us," he said. "There's fear, but biotechnology has been going on since the beginning of time. Mother Nature was crossing plant genes long before scientific man and agricultural man began doing it. If you like to eat spaghetti, you are eating a GMO that Mother Nature made. It's a natural cross of two wild wheat plants."

Agricultural land used for transgenic crop production has increased thirtyfold over the past five years. The United States leads the world in transgenic crop production, followed by Argentina, Canada and China, and use of such crops has boosted yields and reduced costs.

With world population expected to reach 7.6 billion people by 2020 and the demand for grain production likely to increase 40 percent to 50 percent, agricultural technology advances should not be ignored, Borlaug said.

"There's always fear when you change," he said. "We did everything that the book told us not to do, and when we moved all that wheat to India in the 1960s, they were saying that we were mad and insane, playing with the lives of millions.

"There's little or no starvation in Pakistan and India today, and if you travel through China you won't see emaciated people. You don't know what's going to happen when you change something, but you have to change it to try to improve it."

New Herbicide Gives Growers Option

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Since their inception in the late 1980s, sulfonylurea (SU) herbicides have been an important part of managing unwanted grasses in cornfields, but few have been effective at providing the one-two punch of controlling grasses and key broadleaf weeds. Until now.

Option®, an SU herbicide from Aventis CropScience that recently was registered by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, controls grasses such as Johnsongrass, foxtails, fall panicum, quackgrass, shattercane, wirestem muhly, barnyardgrass, and wild proso millet. Option also controls key broadleaf weeds such as velvetleaf, pigweed, and nightshade, and provides suppression on sunflower, cocklebur, lambsquarter, and giant and common ragweed, as well as perennial broadleaves.

Option also provides growers with the flexibility to make management decisions during the growing season. Option allows growers to control grasses and key broadleaf weeds while maintaining the flexibility to rotate to any crop within 60 days. Currently, most SU herbicides require that growers wait up to 18 months before rotating to some crops, such as sugarbeets.

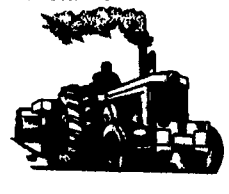
According to Mark Bishop, Option product lead for Aventis CropScience, the flexibility to make decisions during the growing season is something growers want. "No matter how much planning a grower does, there usually is something that causes plans to change," said Bishop, "and sometimes changing plans can take away from a grower's bottom line." He continues, "Option will be tough on weeds and allow growers to make important management decisions without sacrificing yield or profitability."

Rob Kauffman, owner of Mid-Atlantic Independent Tech Services in Mount Joy agrees that growers will appreciate the flexibility of Option and its control of grasses and broadleaf weeds. Kauffman managed an Option experimental use plot (EUP) in 2001, during the testing stage of Option development. He was impressed with how well the product worked. "Option picked up a good amount of broadleaves. It even suppressed lambsquarters, which were eight inches tall when we applied it," he said. His EUP was approximately one-half acre and Option was applied to 12-inch corn around June 1.

Kauffman predicts Option will be a good alternative to Accent®. "It did just as good as Accent in controlling giant and green foxtails, shattercane, and Johnsongrass.

We also saw it control crabgrass, and Option picks up more broadleaves than Accent," he said.

The label recommends applying Option anytime from emergence through V5 or 16-inch corn, giving growers a wide application window during which they can make weed control decisions. Additionally, the label recommends an external adjuvant system of MSO plus UAN (28-32 percent) or AMS, and Option has the flexibility of tankmixing with a variety of products, including atrazine, Distinct®, Clarity®, Hornet™, and Northstar®.



New Tools For Raising Identity-Preserved Corn And Soybeans

AMES, Iowa — New seed technologies and special grain production opportunities are giving Midwest corn and soybeans producers the chance to produce consistent, high-quality grains and oilseeds. These products often earn higher prices resulting in more income for these growers. With those premiums come requirements that strict identity preservation practices be used when growing and harvesting these crops.

A new tool is now available to help farmers protect the identity of these specialty crops during the planting process. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative (IGQI) have teamed up to develop the "Planter Clean-out Procedures for Corn and Soybeans" video.

"Planting is the one step in the production process where a grower can do the most to control the identity of grain and oilseeds," says Mark Hanna, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. Based on a publication developed by Hanna, the program provides an overview of why planter clean-out is important, general planter clean-out procedures and specific clean-out procedures for several planter types.

The VHS video can be ordered through the ISU Extension Website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/Order.html. The video identification number is VID 41. Clicking on the "Order Publications" link on the far left side of the page will bring up specific ordering instructions. The cost is $20, plus shipping, for Iowa residents and $25, plus shipping, for all others.