



Crops
Fred Lundin

AGRIC



Grower panel reacts to conservation compliance at Dog & Pony Show. From right to left Loren Heideman, Ken Turner, Doug Drake, and Don Peterson.

Conservation Compliance Topic Of Seminar

One of the highlights of this year's Dog and Pony Show (OSU's annual wheat seminar) was a grower panel which discussed conservation compliance and how that provision of the 1985 farm bill impacted them. On the panel were Don Peterson, Ione; Ken Turner, Heppner; Loren Heideman, Cecil; and Doug Drake, Heppner.

The conservation compliance provision of the 1985 Farm Bill requires farmers to have an approved conservation plan in effect by 1990, and to have the plan fully implemented by 1995.

The agenda also included a discussion of the Russian wheat aphid, a pest recently found in the Columbia Basin, and an update of the STEEP project, a tristate erosion research project involving Oregon State University, Washington State University, and the University of Idaho.

The Russian wheat aphid causes severe damage to wheat and barley. It was discovered in Morrow County in November 1988. Although populations are low and some winter mortality was observed, the aphid has a potential to cause severe future damage.

Haymaker's Tour Planned

A two day tour for hay growers is planned for May 10 and 11. Plans have been made to visit the export facilities at the Port of Morrow, a cubing plant, and two local farms that produce high quality dairy hay on the first day. On the second day there will be a demonstration of haying equipment in a production hay field.

The tour is a cooperative effort with Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. Hermiston was selected for the tour site because producers there are noted for their high quality hay.

The tour will begin at Nendel's in Umatilla at 12 noon, May 10 and conclude at 12 noon, May 11. A no-host dinner is planned for the first evening.

Anyone interested should contact Gary Prothero, OSU Extension agent at Hermiston, 567-8321.

Spraying Tips

No Drips Allowed

Think about how many times you start and stop your sprayer when applying chemicals. Have you considered how much spray solution drips out at each stop? Be sure to use check valves for no-drip shut-downs. Considering today's agricultural chemical costs, check valves are economical additions to spray rigs.

Tips for Cleaning Tips

Take special care when cleaning spray tips. Use soft-bristle brushes to unclog orifices, rather than sharp objects. Even a wooden toothpick can damage the orifice, especially if using tips made of soft materials such as plastic.

Hazard Communication Affects Agriculture

All agricultural employers must comply with "Hazard Communication Rules" by June 1, 1988, according to Mike Dewey, lobbyist for the Oregon Wheat Grower League in Salem. Recently OSHA expanded the scope of its Hazard Communication Standard to apply to all employers.

Agricultural employers are responsible for a number of tasks under the rule:

1. Provide information to all employees about the hazardous chemicals to which they are exposed.
2. Listing all hazardous chemicals present in the workplace. A hazardous chemical is "any chemical which is a physical or a health hazard".
3. Maintain Material Safety Data Sheets in the workplace, and make them readily available to employees.
4. Provide all employees with the brochure "Safe Practices When Working Around Hazardous Agricultural Chemicals".
5. Provide information on hazardous chemicals in the work area for each worker before starting work and when a new hazard is introduced.
6. Develop an employee training program.
7. Develop a written Hazard Communication Program.
8. Label or tag each hazardous chemical container with appropriate warning. Pesticide containers are considered to be adequately labeled.

Good Records Necessary

In today's business of farming, good management includes good record keeping. And though chemicals are a large percentage of operating costs, application is an area where farmers often overlook or oversimplify records. Just jotting chemical names and rates may get you by, if all goes well. But if there's a problem with pesticide performance or drift damage claims, more information will be required for accurate insurance benefits or corporate guarantees.

Equitable claims rely on accurate, detailed information, including conditions pertaining to application practices, environment and crop growth. For specific information regarding claims, consult your chemical or insurance representatives. In general, good records include the following information.

Environmental Data

Note the temperature, relative humidity, time of day, approximate wind speed and ground moisture

Application Data

Be sure to include sprayer operating speed, nozzle size and pressure, rate of application, and chemical name.

Crop Data

Record weed height and, if applicable, stage of growth for plant. Also describe topography and soil type.