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NO. 1 IN AGRICULTURE

WAC Seed Field Day Will Highlight Sunflowers



Topic For Field Day

Temple Abney of WAC Seed Co. of Hereford shows off the large heads of one of the sunflower varieties to be highlighted at an upcoming field day sponsored by the local seed firm. Sunflower acreage on the South Plains, as well as in the Panhandle, has shown an increase this year. The

upcoming field day will give local farmers an opportunity to view the performance of new varieties, as well as ask questions about proper sunflower culture practices. [Brand photo by Jim Steiert]

By JIM STEIERT
Brand Farm Editor

Area farmers will get a first hand look at new sunflower varieties and will also have an opportunity to get their questions on sunflower production answered during a special field day scheduled by WAC Seed of Hereford.

The field day activities will be held Monday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Joe Andrews farm, 3 1/2 miles south of Hereford on the Easter Highway.

Dr. Carl Claassen, president of Pacific Oilseeds Inc. of Woodland, Calif. will speak on sunflower varieties and conduct the field day presentation.

Also on hand will be Dr. Charles Rogers and Dr. Sam Yang of the USDA Research Center at Bushland, and Dr. Ray Brigham of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Lubbock.

They will answer producer questions concerning sunflower culture.

Sunflower production in the Panhandle and on the South Plains has shown a dramatic increase this year, and the national acreage of sunflowers is up as well.

The USDA estimates 5,082,000 acres of oil-type sunflowers were planted in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Texas combined this year. Agency estimates indicate 4,993,000 acres of the total will be harvested, compared to final estimates for 1978 of 2.55 million acres.

Sunflower plantings in the Panhandle and on the South Plains mushroomed to an astounding level in 1975 as many farmers gave a try to a new crop option, but a shortfall in the actual price delivered on contracted sunflowers all but killed interest in the crop over most of the Panhandle for the following year.

Area sunflower industry spokesmen indicate the renewed interest in the crop is due in large part to vastly improved sunflower varieties that are true hybrid self-pollinators.

Sunflowers grown in the area in 1975 were open-pollinated Rumanian varieties, and yields often proved disappointing.

Coupled with the improvement in sunflower varieties is the opening up of new markets for the product.

Oil derived from sunflower

seeds is used in products ranging from cooking oil to cosmetics and paints, and the absence of poly-unsaturates in the product has won it acceptance in food products.

Yields of sunflowers grown in the Panhandle area have ranged as high as 2970 pounds per acre, and most producers considering the crop are hoping strong yields can make the crop a workable alternative.

Currently, sunflowers have shown their greatest value in the Panhandle and on the South Plains as a "catch crop" planted when cotton or other crops are hailed out or damaged in some other manner, and a quick growing crop is needed to obtain some production from the land for that growing season.

Sunflowers are also gaining acceptance as a crop to be used under limited water or dryland conditions. They have a long tap root and exhibit a tendency to go semi-dormant during extreme drought conditions.

The upcoming field day will highlight the strengths of sunflower production and point up some of the new varieties which should help sunflowers maintain a place in Panhandle cropping.

A tour of the WAC sunflower plant, designed primarily for sizing sunflower seed, will also be featured during the field day.

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Statewide Gasohol Workshop Scheduled

LUBBOCK — A statewide workshop on "Gasohol Know-how" will take place in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Sept. 6 under co-sponsorship of the Texas Farmers Union (TFU) and the Texas Tech Center for Energy Research.

State Rep. Dan Kubiak of Rockdale, whose support of gasohol production has earned him the name of "Mr. Gasohol" will be the keynote speaker.

Jon Thomas, TFU staff conference coordinator, said the workshop will deal with all major problems related to gasohol production and marketing.

"Gasohol is seen as a very logical solution to some of the Texas farmers' problems," Thomas said, "and this conference is designed to be a gathering point for information on gasohol."

Ohio Farmers Lease Cattle

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ask a banker to lease a Boeing 707 or a fleet of limousines and he won't bat an eye. But dairy cows?

Now a dairy farmer can step into any one of the 225 or so offices of BancOhio Corp. and lease a phalanx of grass-munching, cud-chewing Jerseys, Guernseys, Holsteins, Brown Swiss or Ayrshires.

The giant bank holding company is now in its fifth month of leasing dairy cattle, and so far has leased about 200 bovines to Ohio farmers.

Douglas Hawkins, who conceived and operates the program for BancOhio, says it may be the only bank-operated one of its kind in the United States.

"You can get more cows for less money on your initial outlay," said Robert Frey, a Pike County dairy farmer. Frey, who operates a 570-acre dairy farm near Waverly, is BancOhio's largest cow-leasing customer. Since June, he has leased about 40 cows. He intends to lease 20-40 more dairy cattle to expand his herd to about 100 animals by January.

Rotating sessions are planned so that farmers who want to enter the field of gasohol production can attend all four technical meetings. The sessions will provide information on "Technology of Gasohol Production," "Legal Aspects and Financial Assistance for Production," "Equipment Procurement," and "Mixture and Uses of Gasohol," including blending, storage and marketing.

For the technology session there will be a slide lecture on methods of producing alcohol fuels, a description of solar applications to ethanol production, model glass and solar stills. Cindy Domencio, coordinator for alcohol fuels for the National Farmers Union, will participate. Director Victor Ray of NFU Field Services will give a Declaration of Independence for Farmers.

Speakers for the session on legal aspects, including the steps necessary for obtaining federal and state permits, will be representatives of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Speaking on financial assistance will be representatives of the Economic Development Administration and other interested federal agencies.

Equipment producers of both large and small units and producers of the chemical materials necessary for gasohol production will speak and answer questions at the equipment procurement session. Federal energy experts also are expected to participate.

For the session on mixture and uses of gasohol, one of the speakers will be Don Graham, manager of the Sunray Co-op, the first place in Texas where gasohol was sold. Texas Tech Chemical Engineering Prof. Steven R. Beck will discuss application of gasohol to diesel engines.

Registration fee for the workshop is \$10. For more information write either the Center for Energy Research, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409 or the Texas

Farmers Union, 800 Lake Air Drive, Waco, Texas 76710; or call Prof. Beck, (806) 742-3553, or Jon Thomas, (817) 772-7220.

On the workshop planning committee are: Dr. Marion O. Hagler interim director of the

Center for Energy Research; Joe Rankin of Ralls, TFU vice president; Bob Adams, Lubbock, Farmers Union Insurance Agent; Wayne Richardson, Wolforth, TFU District II director; Mell D. Cherry, Lorenzo; Beck and Thomas.

Five Seeking TGSPB Positions

Four directors will be elected to the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board in an election which is currently underway. Ballots are being mailed to grain sorghum producers throughout the 29-county TGSPB area of the Texas High Plains.

Every two years, the terms of four members of the Board expire. Current members of the Board who have chosen not to seek re-election are: A.W. "Dub" Anthony, Jr. of Friona; E.C. Witten, Edmonson; and Don Nelson of Tulia.

The producers whose names have been placed in nomination are: Dennis Anthony, Friona, Texas; Olan "Jack" Crowl, Morse, Texas; John Gilbreath, Hart, Texas; Steve Leg, Hale Center, Texas; and Albert Scheel, Lockney, Texas. John Gilbreath is the only incumbent candidate.

All grain sorghum producers within the 29-county area of the Texas High Plains (served by

the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board) are eligible to vote. Any producer who does not receive a ballot through the mail may obtain one at his county agent's office.

The biennial election deadline is September 15, 1979. Any ballot that is postmarked after that date will not be valid. In addition to the five candidates listed on the ballot, a producer may also vote for any grain sorghum producer who has agreed to serve on the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board, provided he write in the preferred name in the space provided for write-in candidates.

TGSPB chairman, Larry Witten of Olton, Texas encourages all grain sorghum farmers to exercise their right in this election by marking their ballots and returning them to the TGSPB office as quickly as possible.

Alcohol Plant Meeting Set Here for Tomorrow

The feasibility of constructing a large, farmer-owned grain processing facility to manufacture fuel-grade alcohol will be considered by area farmers during a session set for 8:30

GSPA Seeks Extension Of Set-Aside

The Grain Sorghum Producers Association has officially requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture extend the set-aside program for 1980 on feed grains. In a letter dated August 17 to Secretary Bergland, GSPA Executive Director Elbert Harp stated, "there is absolutely no justification for consideration of discontinuing the set-aside programs as provided for in the Agricultural Act of 1977."

GSPA contends that the U.S. feed grain supplies are still in surplus and the current stocks of all grains, plus the bumper crop which is in the forecast for 1979, point to excessive stocks for the 1979-80 marketing year. These surplus stocks continue to suppress the grain prices far below the cost of production and removal of the set-aside program in feed grain would further depress the grain prices in 1980, according to Harp.

Discard canned food that leaks or bulges. The more deadly type of food poisoning, botulism, is likely to show up in under-processed canned fish, meats and vegetables.

Cantaloupes are sensitive to sunburning, which can be caused by two hours of sun exposure on hot days. Sunburning leads to rapid deterioration and softening.

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FU Threatens Suit Over Grain Sales Suspension

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Farmers Union has charged that the federal government has "suspended" sales of grain to the Soviet Union and demanded that the price support loan rate for wheat and corn be raised immediately to 90 percent of parity in accordance with section 1002 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.

In a statement issued simultaneously in Denver, Colorado, and Washington, D.C., Tony Dechant, National President of the Farmers Union, declared that the Farmers Union is contemplating legal action to compel the government to raise the price support loans under terms of the law, or to cease its restriction against additional sales of corn and wheat to the USSR.

Ninety percent of parity would be \$5.38 a bushel for wheat and \$3.75 a bushel for corn. Average prices received by Farmers in the U.S. in July were \$3.95 for wheat and \$2.73 for corn.

Dechant noted that Section 1002 of the 1977 Act provides that "Whenever the president or any other member of the executive branch of the federal government causes to be suspended, based upon a determination of short supply, the commercial export sales of any commodity (wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, rye, barley, rice, flaxseed and cotton) to any country or area with which the United States otherwise continues commercial trade, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, on the day the suspension is initiated, set the loan level for such commodity... at 90 percent of the parity price for the commodity."

"This isn't a question of whether the president has authority under the Export Administration Act or the Five-Year Russian Grain Agreement to limit shipments when supplies are deemed to be short," he explained. "But the law is clear that when there is such interference on the grounds that supplies are short, the support rate must at once be lifted to 90 percent of parity."

Dechant said that it is obvious from the legislative history of Section 1002 that it was not the intent that this should be applicable only when there is a total embargo in shipments of a commodity.

He noted that the House Agriculture Committee Report on the Farm Bill, said in its reference to the language of Section 1002 that the provision is intended to apply whenever the suspension is made "directly or indirectly."

The committee report also explains that "this provision is intended to discourage embargoes or the suspension of export sales by the executive branch of government. It does not, of course, prevent such action here an overriding national interest exists. However, the committee feels that if the public interest is served by such drastic and disruptive action, then the public, not just grain producers, should pay for that public policy."

Section 1002 was proposed originally in the House Agriculture Committee by Rep. Glenn English (Okla.) who termed it necessary "to protect producers from government interference with the export of American wheat."

Originally, the English amendment was to require a raise in supports to 100 percent of parity and this was the provision when the bill went to the House floor. And manager of the bill, said in presenting the bill to the House that the price support adjustment would be required "if the executive branch or the federal government should suspend or cause suspension of exports."

The House approved the English provision and it was later scaled down in conference committee to 90 percent of parity. The conference com-

mittee report declares that "the provision is to be operative whenever any member of the executive branch causes to be suspended--based on a determination of short supply--the commercial export sales of any of the above named commodities."

"There is no question that the executive branch has suspended grain sales to the Soviet Union because of concern about supply conditions," Dechant explained. "In making his announcement on August 1 (one), following the consultations, Secretary Bergland explicitly

reported the quantity limits imposed by the U.S. on grain sales and further stated that any consideration of increasing those limits would be delayed to October. In Bergland's own words, "by that time, we will have more precise information on the size of this year's corn and other feed grain crops..."

Dechant added that it is common knowledge from trade sources that the Soviet Union wants to buy more grain in the fourth year of the Grain Agreement, which begins October 1, than it has so far been given permission to purchase.

Soy Growers Endorse Free Marketing System

ATLANTA, GEORGIA — Soybean producers meeting at the American Soybean Association (ASA) National Convention in Atlanta last week (Aug. 12-15) reaffirmed their strong support of an open market system, free of government controls, as the most efficient means of marketing the record '79 soybean crop.

In a special session for convention delegates, 170 representatives of 24 state soybean associations strongly endorsed a resolution urging that soybeans be kept free of government programs such as acreage allotments, marketing quotas, target prices, and setaside programs. The resolution also strongly opposed government involvement, through the Commodity Credit Corporation or any other agency, in negotiating export sales of American soybeans or other crops.

Record attendance at the convention topped 1500 soybean growers and their families who participated in a three-day program that included meetings, seminars and activities for the entire family. Soybean producers attending the convention heard speakers describe current ASA market development efforts and presentations on the challenges ahead for the soybean market, particularly from competing oil seeds such as rape seed, sunflowerseed, and palm oil.

Convention delegates commended the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland for their strong support and "invaluable assistance" in expanding export markets for soybeans. They also urged that because of the importance of agricultural exports to the nation's economy, foreign market development funding should be continued and increased at an annual rate commensurate to world inflation rates and increased sales needs.

Delegates urged government, private industry, and growers increased support for soybean research to reduce production costs and find new uses for soybeans and soybean products. Citing the large crop and the worldwide need for protein, delegates urged that funding be increased for research on improving the quality and general acceptability of soy oil, finding new uses for soy oil, improving the nutritional value of soybean meal and expanding the use of soy protein.

In an expression of concern for adequate transportation systems to move agricultural commodities, delegates urged the Department of Transportation and the USDA to take steps to assure adequate rail transportation for areas dependent on railroads. Delegates also urged Congress to pass legislation to facilitate users buying railroads before they are abandoned. The resolution requests that such groups be given a minimum of one year to form a user organization to facilitate the purchase of the rail line proposed for abandonment.

Delegates urged that energy priorities continue to be given to food production and called on the Department of Energy to designate soybean processing and transportation as a priority use for gasoline, diesel, fuel, hexane, and other energy sources.

Finally, delegates set membership development as a number one priority of ASA in 1980. In a resolution on membership, delegates urged statewide membership activities including development of county soybean organizations.

Buying, Selling Dates Vital For Tax Management

COLLEGE STATION — An accurate record of farm transactions can play a big part in income tax management strategies, notes Dr. Ashley Lovell, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

For instance, the 1978 Revenue Act increased by 10 percent the net capital gain a noncorporate taxpayer may deduct from his gross income. The previous 50 percent deduction of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss no longer applies, notes Lovell.

So producers should review holding periods for various assets such as breeding cattle, speculative commodity futures and farm machinery with respect to capital gains or losses. The economist suggests that producers review purchase dates of assets that are expected to be sold to determine if holding period requirements are satisfied.

Acquisition dates are important when assets are to be sold and investment credit claimed. Lovell cites an example: Suppose a previously purchased asset (on which investment credit was claimed) is sold before the three-year minimum holding period is achieved. Instead of receiving 10 percent investment credit on 33 percent

of the qualified investment, the owner has to recapture the entire credit and pay it on his 1979 tax return.

Livestock producers must also be aware of "wash" transactions. Cost of replacement livestock must be reduced by the amount received for substantially identical animals. Lovell says this provision applies only if substantially identical animals are sold within six months either side of the date replacements are purchased and investment credit is not recaptured.

Producers trading or buying and selling used property in 1979 should recall an existing provision in the Farmer's Tax Guide. If within 60 days of the sale date, similar used qualifying property is bought as a replacement and the basis of property to be bought is not determined by reference to the adjusted basis of the old property, then only the amount exceeding the basis of the old property should be counted.

In this situation whether or not the 10 percent investment credit will be allowed on the total purchase price of used items depends on their acquisition and disposal dates, adds Lovell.

He encourages producers to consult a tax accountant or attorney regarding business details.

Cattle, Sheep, Hog Prices Reach \$3.7 Billion In '78

AUSTIN—Cattle, sheep and hog prices took a welcome upturn in 1978, according to the latest statistical report on Texas meat animals, Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown has said.

Total cash receipts for meat animals in Texas reached \$3.716 billion, compared with \$2.707 billion the previous year, he noted. These figures are part of an annual survey conducted by the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

These figures reflect only total cash receipts, and are not a measure of industry profits. In many cases, substantial price increases are due to extremely low price levels of the previous year, with which they are compared.

"Cash receipts for cattle and calves were up by about \$969 million over 1977," Brown said, "which indicates the continued strong demand

for beef and the fewer beef animals available to meet this demand."

Total beef cattle output dropped by 9 percent last year, he noted, as cattlemen sharply trimmed their herds. Overproduction has kept cattle prices at rock bottom for over four years, and forced many producers out of business. Many livestock experts now believe this herd reduction phase is nearing an end, and producers soon will respond to higher prices by rebuilding their herds.

"Although the financial picture has certainly improved for many cattlemen, it has happened only after years of losses," he said. Brown noted that only about 60 cents out of each retail beef dollar goes to the producer. Inflation, taxes and old debts also combine to deplete a large portion of potential profits.

Fed Cattle Marketing Expected to Decrease

COLLEGE STATION — There is little doubt that fed cattle marketings will decrease in the second half of this year, says Dr. Edward Uvacek, Jr.

"The real question is whether or not this decrease will offset large quantities of other meats," believes the livestock marketing specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

Cattle on feed are down six percent from last year. Uvacek says placements into feedlots are also down substantially, indicating fed cattle marketings for October-December will probably be 6.2 to 6.4 million head—down 4 to 7 percent from year ago levels.

Although these projections

look encouraging, Uvacek reminds producers that prices fell from the high \$70s down into the \$60s during the past April-June period when fed cattle marketings were down eight percent.

"Larger pork and broiler supplies obviously have hurt beef prices," contends the specialist. "Unfortunately, the second half of 1979 will have even more pork and poultry production."

"Double digit inflation further compounds the problem," Uvacek adds. "That plus a business slowdown, reduced restaurant sales because of the fuel crisis, and the lingering threat of government controls, will combine to make it a long, hot summer."

THIS WEEK'S VALUES

Advertised Prices effective Thursday, August 23, through Saturday, August 25, 1979 in Hereford, Texas

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