



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - June 11, 2004

*****Grazing Alfalfa Safely and Profitably**

CropLife Canada is calling on growers to return full or part containers of excess adjuvant to their participating farm supply retailers. This stewardship initiative is intended to assist growers in the environmentally important task of removing these surplus products from their farms. Posters are available for display in retail outlets to promote the program.

In addition CropLife Canada is also promoting the "Take it off – take it ALL off" program. Producers are encouraged to triple RINSE or pressure rinse containers (with rinsate place in the sprayer tank), REMOVE the labels, caps, tags, booklets and other materials and RETURN the clean, empty containers to a designated collection site. Posters, mail stuffers and ad mats/press releases are available for participating retailers.

For more information on these recycling programs or to obtain promotional materials, contact CropLife Canada at 416-622-9771.

*****Serious Seeding Delays in Manitoba**

Manitoba, the province that has established itself as a the leader in bean and potato production is looking at a bleak start for both crops.

Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation has extended the deadline for seeding dates in both edible beans and soybeans, but that had little impact given the weather. The May 30 weekend saw most of the province receive another two inches of rain on already saturated fields.

In its weekly crop report, Manitoba Agriculture and Food said that only about 50 per cent of the edible beans and 80 per cent of the potatoes had been planted. Producers normally have all the crop in the ground by the end of May.

Manitoba Crop Insurance has extended the deadline for coverage of edible beans to include seeding to June 11 to 15 in the most southerly part of the province. Soybeans have had their seeding dates extended from May 30 to June 4 for most of the province and to June 11 in the southern zone.

Rod Pokrant farms in the Red River Valley and had planned to grow soybeans for the first time. He now expects to put canola in the field designated for soybeans.

Brian Jack, with Manitoba Agriculture, estimated that only about 10 to 15 per cent of the province's soybeans have been seeded. Acreage was expected to top 200,000 acres this year.

The change in plans has the seed industry in a quandary, since many small seed firms held the seed for growers on a verbal commitment. With no contracts, the growers are not bound to pay for the seed and companies may be left holding the bag.

Soybean seed can not be held over until the next year because it normally experiences a dramatic drop in germination when stored for another season.

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Potato emergence is well behind the normal schedule and the acreage was already reduced due to a drop in contracting by all three of the province's processing firms. Some growers were eliminated and all faced contract reductions. *(By Les Kletke; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

*****Ag-West Bio Inc. Launches New Website**

Ag-West Bio has launched their new website, at www.agwest.sk.ca. On April 30th 2004, Ag-West Biotech Inc., Bio-Products Saskatchewan Inc., and the Saskatchewan Nutraceutical Network, Inc. announced their amalgamation to form Ag-West Bio Inc., an organization created to provide a single door to Saskatchewan's future growth in the bio-economy.

The website design allows for easy access to the various aspects of the organization, including sector specific information for the three main areas of the organization (Nutrition & Health, Biotechnology and BioProducts) as well as publications, events, regulations, and educational and outreach information.

(Source: Agnet, Food Safety Network)

*****Does Heavy Rainfall Affect Herbicide Performance?**

The full report is at
www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/news/croppest/2004/06cpo04a4.htm.