

# TH AGRI-CHEMICALS, Inc.

"Good People to Grow With"

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

JULY 1 ST, 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you get this newsletter, the Fourth of July will have passed. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to spend some time with family and friends and enjoy some fireworks. I also hope you took a few minutes to pause and reflect on what a great country we have; to think about the many people who have given the ultimate sacrifice, who have served and are currently serving to preserve the freedom we have today. It is important that we be ever vigilant to protect our freedom from threats both inside and outside the U.S. What has made America great is for people to work hard and be rewarded for their efforts. We have seen the problems that are being caused in Europe by a socialistic system. We certainly do not want that to happen in the USA.

I have mentioned Mother Nature occasionally in this newsletter and the affect she can have on agriculture. With the way this year is going, I am starting to think she is a mean, fickle old bitch! An early spring got everything off to an early start—and then repeated frosts decimated most of the apple crop, not only in Wisconsin, but all the way to the East Coast. Tart cherries and peaches also took a 90% loss in Michigan. Now the drought. Next it will possibly be the Great White Combine!

The current hot, dry conditions are certainly having a serious effect on crops in the southern part of the state, while the northern part of the state has experienced rain—in some cases over 5 inches. If we do not have significant rainfall in the next few days, considerable crop damage will occur. Wheat yields have been surprisingly good with reports of 70-100 bushel with good test weights. Pea yields are dropping off significantly. Potato harvest is starting. Chip yields are excellent in Missouri with growers having more potatoes than they need to fill contracts. Unfortunately, chip processors have no intention in taking additional potatoes and some acreage may be abandoned.

As we continue our 30th year in business, we do want to thank both our customers and suppliers who have made it possible for us to reach this milestone. While we have seen many of our early supporters retire or pass away, we cannot forget the faith and confidence they had in us. We are also proud of the fact that we are working with the second and third generation of many of our customers.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Zimpel  
President



“Peace is that brief glorious moment in history  
when everybody stands reloading.”

Thomas Jefferson

## WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

*It has been brought to my attention that the EPA and other state and federal agencies are in the process of checking application records, employee training records and other information. They are not just targeting large operations but small ones as well. Make sure your application records are current and you have labels and MSDS sheets available on all products you have used. The same holds true for any employee records, including training. Remember, the government agencies are all still short on money so most likely if there are any violations found there will be fines levied.*

Bob Zimpel



## GLYPHOSATE

We currently are having a spot shortage on glyphosate. Some of our Suppliers won't have product until August and others, including Monsanto, are not currently taking orders for product, or are three weeks behind on production. We had to pay more for the product we currently have in stock and we are not able to get price quotes on replacement product.

What does this mean to you? **PRICE INCREASES!** We can anticipate that all glyphosate will increase. New prices will be coming shortly and once these are announced there will be plenty of product available. Even with the price increases glyphosate is still going to be a very economical part of your weed control program.

Bob Zimpel

## STRAWBERRIES

Much to my surprise we had a good harvest this year at the orchard. We were very pleased with our Jewel and Cabot yields. Even though the frost took out the King berries, the total crop ended up having good quality and size. I would anticipate moving away from Honey Eye and planting more Jewel and Cabot varieties along with some of the new ones that are coming available. The weather was cooperative and we had a lot of pickers.

We have applied our Formula 40 and will mow the beds next week. After mowing, we will apply 150# of 13-13-13 fertilizer per acre to get the plants growing. I was very pleased with our weed control. This is the first year that we have not done any hand weeding on our beds. Bob Zimpel

**\*\*Formula 40 is a registered trademark of Nufarm.**

## PESTICIDES, IRRIGATION & HOOK

Very dry conditions have made it important to irrigate almost 24 hours a day. This increased irrigation can have an effect on our pesticides and how they perform, especially fungicides and insecticides.

The addition of Hook at 1 quart per 100 gallons will help improve the efficacy of many products. Hook contains 6 things to help you. (Spreader, Sticker, Activator, Penetrator, Deposition agent and Drift control). Hook is an All-In-One product to help pesticide performance.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

**\*\*Hook is a registered trademark of Atlantic Pacific.**



One of our more "progressive" dealers in the south-central part of the state called to say he wanted to return the rain gauges we gave him because they did not work!

Go figure!



## LEAFHOPPERS, WIREWORMS, CUTWORMS & GUMMY WORMS??

The list of insect problems this year is unbelievable. Growers have had to constantly scout all crops for additional pests on a daily basis. This condition has created shortages of insecticides as well as legal limits of an insecticide being used up fairly quickly.

We have had a challenge finding alternatives for growers because of manufacturers running out of products. We are committed to doing our best for you to help with this situation. Shortages also apply to herbicides (especially glyphosate). Give us a call to discuss the choices you have.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA



**Black cutworm**

## APPLES

The crop in Gays Mills continues to size up. I am still estimating a 60-70% crop. It appears that some, if not all varieties are going to be ready for harvest earlier than normal this year. I am going to look at using Retail as a possible option to slow down maturity.

With the shortage of apples this year this is an excellent opportunity to increase our retail prices. I feel that we have been selling our apples and other produce too cheap for years. I also think that consumers will pay more for good quality produce. We have continued to increase our prices for strawberries each year and have not run into any consumer resistance. We all work hard to produce good quality crops and it is an expensive endeavor so we need to be compensated for it.

On another note, I am still working on obtaining apples from Washington state. I hope to have some information by the Apple Field Day on availability and pricing.

Bob Zimpel

**\*\*Retail is a registered trademark of Valent.**

## WEED ESCAPES IN SOYBEANS!

### Why your post emerge may not have worked!

The lack of rainfall may only be part of the problem. We have received lots of calls and requests for how to handle spraying in these dry conditions, and also the lack of performance especially on lambs quarter and velvetleaf. Simply put, tough weeds are harder to control in drought conditions. The protective coating (known as the cuticle) reduces the amount of water lost through the plants leaves. Water loss is essential for a plants survival, but as less water becomes available as soils dry, the plant must reduce the amount of water it loses. This is accomplished through changes in the structure and composition of the cuticle. Cuticle thickness can increase in dry periods reducing the amount of herbicide that can penetrate the leaf.

Airborne dust in study's have been shown to reduce performance of foliar applied herbicides. Reduction of phytotoxicity occurs whether dust was present before the application or deposited within 15 minutes of the application. Dust from silty clay is worse than loamy sand soil. Remedies are few. Increasing the spray volume, adding spray additives, and slowing down when applying are the only known possible remedies.

In general we cannot delay some post emerge applications due to competition, but it might be worth waiting for the rain (if it ever comes) that will make the weeds resume normal growth. In case of rain do not resume applications right away, it takes time for the cuticle to change.

Here are a few tips if you must spray:

- ◆ **Apply early in the morning.** Weeds are less stressed, and actively growing. Be ready to quit as the mercury rises.
- ◆ **Use the right rate.** Scout weed heights, and apply the maximum rates if needed.
- ◆ **Use a tank-mix partner** if needed to improve hard to control species
- ◆ **Increase adjuvant concentration.** Non-ionic surfactant can be increased to 2 qts /100 gl for some herbicides like glyphosate, and raising the AMS/UIAN may also help. Make sure you read the label before making changes, some things can result in negative crop responses.

If you have questions feel free to contact us, we will try to give the best recommendation for each situation.

Jeff Luttrupp, CCA



*TH will again be offering the best wheat available from Legacy Seeds, all locally grown. They also carry the Groundhog Tillage Radish, along with a full line of alfalfa seed.*

### SECOND GENERATION COLORADO POTATO BEETLES

The next generation (2<sup>nd</sup>) of beetles will soon be with us. Many growers will be considering using Coragen to control this pest. A rate of 3.5 – 5 ounces is recommended. DuPont also suggests that a Methylated seed (MES-100) be applied with the product at a rate of 2 quarts per 100 gallons of water. This adjuvant really makes the product work better.

2012 really has given us plenty of insects to deal with. We may even see a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) generation of Colorado potato beetles this year. I asked our state entomologist, Dr. Russ Groves about what we can use if that does happen. He replied “Diquat”. Hmmm?

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

**\*\*Coragen is a registered trademark of DuPont Crop Science; MES 100 is a registered trademark of Drexel; Diquat is a registered trademark of?**

### CONTAINER RECYCLING

The recycling of containers will again take place in Wisconsin. TH Agri-Chemicals, Inc. supports and encourages recycling of agricultural plastic containers and would like to provide information about recycling services and Web site for locating a recycling center near you. The Ag Container Recycling Council contractor for the Mid-West region is Container Services Network, LLC (CSN - [www.ContainerServicesNetwork.com](http://www.ContainerServicesNetwork.com)) has a list of sites being coordinated in Wisconsin.

Whoever you use to recycle your containers, we encourage you to evaluate your pesticide recycling vendor to ensure the firm is addressing two major issues: 1) that the company has a system that tracks and documents the containers once they leave your facility and that the plastic is handled legally and safely including ultimate use restricted to end use products that tests have shown minimize any pesticide residue exposure to humans, and 2) that the company adheres to all standards set for recycling plastic containers from pesticides and pesticide-related products.

If you have any question with regard to how CSN will accommodate your recycling needs, please don't hesitate to contact Sheri DeMars toll free at 866-225-6629.

Robert Dinkel



# T H Agri-Chemicals, Inc.

P.O. Box 265

617 E. North St.

Plainfield, WI 54966

Phone: 715-335-6343

Toll Free: 866-666-THAG

Fax: 715-335-4949

Email: [thag@thagrichemicals.com](mailto:thag@thagrichemicals.com)

Website: [www.thagrichemicals.com](http://www.thagrichemicals.com)

## T H CELL PHONE NUMBERS

Robert Zimpel	(715) 570-7091
Steve Rosenthal	(715) 570-7092
Jeannine Chilewski	(715) 570-7093
Jeff Luttrupp	(715) 570-7082
Robert Dinkel	(715) 570-0034
Craig Raha	(715) 570-7098
Paul Hedrick	(715) 570-7094
Randy Billington	(715) 570-7095



## T H SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY THRU  
FRIDAY

7:00 A.M.— 5:30 P.M.

&

SATURDAYS

7:00 A.M.—NOON

Thank you!

## T H RETURN POLICY

T H will accept product returns only if the product is in clean, re-salable condition. We will not accept dirty, water stained, or greasy containers. Any containers that have been opened or the seals broken will not be accepted. The policy is for everyone's protection against contamination. Remember, don't send anything back that you would not accept if we were delivering it to you. We will also need products returned in a timely fashion.

*We will be unable to accept returns on Herbicides or Insecticides after July 31st, 2012.*

## Christmas Trees



### MITE BE, MITE NOT!

Extremely dry conditions can create an environment that could cause mite populations to explode. Monitor fields every 4 – 5 days to watch for this pest.

There are many products to control mites, but one that I like is Envidor 2SC. Envidor 2SC will control Spruce Spider mites, Twospotted Spider mites and Rust mites. Application rates of 18.0 – 24.7 ounces per acre will give excellent control. The higher rate will give longer residual control. The addition of a sticker such as Chemstik is also a good idea.

### DROUGHT AND WEED CONTROL

Dry conditions can also have a negative effect on weed control. Applications of herbicides to weeds that are under stress from dry conditions can mean poor results. Try to delay applications until weeds or grasses get some rainfall so they become actively growing.

Pre-emergent herbicides in Christmas tree plantations did not work real well because of the lack of rainfall. Weeds and grass should be under 5 - 6 inches if sprayed with any of the post-emergent herbicides. Give us a call if you have any questions.

### WISCONSIN CHRISTMAS TREE CONVENTION

The Annual Summer Convention will be held at Tom and Sue Schroeder's farm in Montello from August 24 – 25, 2012. If you need more information give Cheryl Nicholson a call at (608) 742-8663.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

**\*\*Envidor 2SC is a registered trademark of Bayer CropSciences; Chemstik is a registered trademark of Precision Labs.**