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LOGAN AG NEWS

New Herbicides For 2010

Introduction of several herbicides into the 2010 market highlights the crop protection chemical industry. Although availability of some of these products is limited this year, these herbicides help fill weed control voids and are welcome additions to our crop protection arsenal.

Bayer Crop Science brings three corn herbicides – Balance Flexx, Corvus and Capreno.

Balance[®] Flexx is a new formulation of isoxaflutole with an enhanced safener, Crop Safety Innovation (CSI). The safener enables Balance Flexx to be applied as a burndown or preplant application through early post-emergence (V2) without injury to the corn plant. Balance Flexx performs well on tough broadleaves and grasses, and is reactivated by rainfall during the season.

Corvus[®], available in limited quantities in 2009, provides consistent one-pass control of grass and broadleaf weeds. A combination of Balance Flexx and a grass herbicide, Corvus is labeled through V2 growth stage. Positive reports from growers in 2009 make Corvus one of the products to watch.

Capreno[™], a selective post-emerge corn herbicide, fits well in one-pass programs with glyphosate or Ignite[®], or can be utilized as the post-emerge treatment in a 2-pass program. Capreno provides residual control through canopy, and controls a broad spectrum of broadleaf weeds and grasses including fall panicum. There is limited availability in 2010.

DuPont Crop Protection

introduces **Prequel[™]** in 2010. Prequel provides burndown plus residual control in corn. Prequel is a combination of Basis[®] and isoxaflutole (Balance), but cannot be applied post-emerge. Prequel is effective as an add-in for complete one-pass weed control or can be used as the foundation herbicide in a 2-pass program.

BASF introduces Kixor[®] technology in 2010, with three new products available – Sharpen, Integrity and Optill.

Sharpen[™] is the base product of the Kixor herbicide family. Sharpen is labeled in corn and soybeans for pre-emerge weed control, and provides excellent burndown and residual control of tough broadleaf weeds including glyphosate resistant marestail. Limited quantities of Sharpen are available for 2010.

Integrity[™], a combination of Sharpen and Outlook, provides excellent burndown and residual control of many weeds. Integrity does not contain atrazine, and is a highly effective low use rate herbicide for corn.

Optill[™] herbicide is labeled for pre-emerge application in soybeans. A combination of Sharpen and Pursuit[®], Optill provides foundation or season-long weed control in Roundup Ready and non-GMO soybeans. Balance Flexx, Corvus, Capreno and Ignite are trademarks of Bayer. Prequel and Basis are registered trademarks of DuPont. Kixor, Sharpen, Integrity, Optill and Pursuit are registered trademarks of BASF.

New Employees

Two qualified individuals recently joined the Logan Ag staff. **John Kelley** returns to assist the crew with custom application of fertilizer, crop protection chemicals and anhydrous ammonia. In

addition, John will oversee the Logan Ag farming operation. John resides in Griggsville with his wife Jamie and children Ryan and Jenna,

Derek DeSpain joins the staff in a full-time position after a stint during the summer of 2009 as a college intern. Derek is a graduate of Illinois State University, and will work in custom application, crop scouting and sales. Derek resides in Griggsville.

John and Derek join a full-time staff consisting of Wayne Bingham (Sales Manager), Jerry Wilson (Plant Manager), Troy Kennedy, Eric Bien (Sales), Steve Crosby (Indiana Sales), Becky Birch, Carla Finson, Peggy Stanley, Josh Schaver (Accounting), Don Toepke (warehouse), Jamie Pennock, Jeff Butler, Mike Sargent, Harold Loyd (application), Phil Ruble (petroleum), Marc Rumpie, Mitch Vose (petroleum transportation), Earl Loyd (delivery/general maintenance), Tammy Schaver (C-Store accounting/Credit Manager) and Edward Logan (General Manager).

Please join us in welcoming John and Derek to the Logan Ag team!

Text Message Alerts From Logan Ag

Information can be accessed from an increasing number of sources. Through technological advances, Logan Ag now offers text messaging to our customers to advise of special programs, discounts, insect and disease alerts, and other timely information.

To be included on our text messaging program, please text your name and cell phone number to [217-491-1787](tel:217-491-1787), or

contact Josh Schaver in our office at 1-800-LOGAN AG, or email jschaver@loganag.com.

Urgent Attention Required

A spray drift proposal from USEPA, if enacted, could adversely impact anyone who applies pesticides. The proposal could increase the likelihood of penalties and lawsuits against the agricultural industry.

EPA proposes to eliminate existing guidance on pesticide labels that allows application provided the application does not cause **“unreasonable adverse effects.”** The new proposal would make it a violation of the label to apply pesticides in a manner that **“could cause adverse effects.”** An example of adverse effect for human exposure as provided by USEPA is **“any negative physical impact, health symptom, or illness, regardless of whether it requires medical treatment or is temporary in nature.”**

The opinion of many professionals in the agricultural industry is that this proposal could seriously hinder the ability to make necessary applications of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) to crops. Under the subjective standard proposed by EPA, any pesticide application has the potential to cause adverse effects.

Please visit the following website **[before March 5](http://www.gopetition.com/online/33776.html)** to sign an on-line petition opposing this proposal: **www.gopetition.com/online/33776.html**.

Odd Weather In Illinois

Data from the Illinois State Climatologist Office reveals 2009

was wetter and cooler than normal, making one wonder if the warnings of global warming were off target.

Illinois received 50.27 inches of precipitation in 2009 – the 4th wettest year on record since 1895. Only 1993, 2008, and 1990 recorded more precipitation. Interestingly, all four record-setting years have occurred in the past 20 years, and far exceed the normal annual precipitation of 39.2 inches. In fact, 2008 and 2009 combine for a whopping 100.8 inches of precipitation – 22.4 inches above average for the two year period.

Outstanding colder-than-normal months of January, July, August and October contributed to an annual average temperature of 51.2° in 2009. Normal temperature is 52°.

2010 is already setting records as the average temperature for the state during the period from January 1-12 was 9.5°, making it the third coldest start to a new year on record. Normal temperature for the first part of January is 23.9°.

2010 Concern

Late harvest in challenging conditions left many fields with ruts from combines and auger carts. While our soils have been saturated over the freeze/thaw cycle of the winter months and some of the surface conditions have improved, compaction layers deeper in the soil may show up if the 2010 growing season turns dry.

“Worked wet” is a big concern heading into the growing season. Make certain field conditions are right before tillage passes to avoid compacted, oxygen starved root zones for your corn and soybeans. Let’s hope for no rain until corn is planted!