RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AT THE NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FIELD CROPS/LIVESTOCK EDITION $1.50 SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

INSIDE

Black Vulture Damage Complaints Increasing in NJ

Janet L. Bucknall, State Director, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

The black vulture is a relatively new member of New Jersey's avifauna, and has been involved in an increasing number of damage situations with New Jersey farmers and homeowners. The black vulture is smaller than the turkey vulture, is predominantly black and dark gray, and lacks the bright red coloration on the head that is characteristic of the more common turkey vulture. Unlike turkey vultures, black vultures are predators, and will kill and consume pets, calves, sheep, and other animals.

Vulture damage control recommendations are outlined here, and more thoroughly described in a USDA APHIS Wildlife Services leaflet entitled, "Vultures: Damage Control and Prevention." Contact the Wildlife Services State Office (908-735-5654) to report black vulture and/or turkey vulture problems, and to obtain a copy of the vulture leaflet.

Habitat Management:

- Eliminate/remove animal carcasses, other food sources, roost trees, etc.
- Wherever possible, arrange for protected lambing/calving, and dispose of afterbirth immediately.

Harassment Techniques:

- Use 12 ga. shell crackers or short-range pyrotechnics to scare birds away.
- Broadcast bird distress calls
- Install propane cannons (NJ State permit required)

Visual Deterrents:

- Install helium-filled balloons, flagging, and mylar tape.

Shoot Pursuant to Permits:

- Apply for a Federal permit by calling WS (908-735-5654) for an application.
- Apply for a State permit by calling the NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife (908-735-5450).
- Once you receive your permit, shoot a few vultures as a reinforcement of non-lethal harassment techniques.

A combination of vulture damage control techniques works best. Check and comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the purchase, use, and transport of pyrotechnics and firearms.

If you anticipate vulture damage next spring, apply for your permits no later than November 1, 1999. ❑

National Farm Safety & Health Week

Wei Zhao, Ph.D., Program Director, Farm Safety Program

September 19-25 is the 1999 National Farm Safety and Health Week. Protecting Agriculture into the Next Century is the goal and theme of this year's National Farm Safety and Health Week campaign. Indeed, with grain prices at an historic low and severe draught conditions in our region, farmers are facing a greater challenge, both financially and emotionally. The intent of National Safety and Health Week is to encourage Americans to understand the significance that agriculture plays in our lives and the importance of safety equipment and systems, proper maintenance, and preventing injuries and illness on our farms.

Agriculture has long been one of the most dangerous industries in the United States. The National Safety Council's data indicates that, during 1998, an estimated 780 farmers and farm workers lost their lives, and another 140,000 suffered disabling injuries as a result of work-related accidents. The farm elderly and children as well as young farm workers are at increased risk for incidents involving farm equipment, livestock and agricultural chemicals. In addition, farmers and farm workers are afflicted with many occupational illnesses and health problems such as hearing loss, skin disorders, back pains, and lung diseases. Health problems are due to exposure to noise, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, toxic gases, field and organic dust, extremes of heat or cold, intense sun, insects, vibration, animal-transmitted diseases and body stress from long hours of hard physical work. Studies also found that farmers have a high death rate due to stress-related conditions.

Much can be done to reduce the risks. Some precautionary measures include installation of Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors and use of seat belts, replacement of missing or damaged shields and guards on farm equipment and machinery, and proper use of personal protective equipment, etc. Information that covers some important safety and health topics is available through my office at (732) 932-9754 or e-mail at zhao@aesop.rutgers.edu:

SEE SAFETY & HEALTH ON PAGE 3

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 89 degrees at Pemberton on the 9th and 45 degrees at Charlotteburg on the 12th and 13th. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.17 inches north, 1.05 inches central, and 1.38 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total was 1.49 inches at Atlantic City Marina on the 7th to the 8th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 84 percent north, 68 percent central and 65 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 71 degrees north, 73 degrees central and 74 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday 9/13/99

	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON
WEATHER STATIONS	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	%FC
BELVIDERE BRIDGE	1.04	16.70	-9.46	87	54	72.	8	2818	425	76
CHARLOTTEBURG	.78	19.67	-8.05	85	45	68.	6	2386	464	91
FLEMINGTON	1.13	15.40	-10.91	88	51	72.	7	2923	442	78
LONG VALLEY	1.73	15.99	-12.48	83	52	70.	7	2544	411	93
LONG BRANCH	.71	17.73	-8.22	80	56	71.	4	2869	301	58
NEW BRUNSWICK	1.19	19.51	-6.45	87	53	73.	6	3076	312	83
PEMBERTON	.87	21.29	-5.00	89	50	73.	6	3170	474	61
TOMS RIVER	.58	12.14	-14.38	86	53	74.	6	2888	317	51
TRENTON	1.91	22.69	-1.90	86	51	73.	5	2849	-16	90
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	1.22	14.11	-8.85	85	57	74.	4	3091	515	78
DOWNSTOWN	.90	21.21	-2.97	87	54	75.	7	3098	223	62
HAMMONTON	.40	20.50	-4.81	86	53	74.	6	3081	228	39
POMONA	.77	17.92	-5.22	85	55	73.	6	3044	382	53
SEABROOK	1.46	22.55	-.66	86	56	75.	6	3258	367	82
ATLANTIC CITY MARINA	3.50	19.56	-2.67	81	63	74.	6	3108	490	86
WOODSTOWN	2.16	26.35	1.47	88	54	75	NA	3268	NA	NA

WES KLINE — GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW Last Week 220 (Ending 9/6/99)This Week 244 (Ending 9/13/99)

Watch for Herbicide Carryover after Drought

Daniel Kluchinski, Mercer County Agricultural Agent

The effect of drought stress may linger beyond this growing season for farmers in the form of herbicide carryover. Ohio State Extension Associate Jeff Stachler says farmers need to verify herbicide carryover to avoid injury to wheat planted this fall. Any area receiving lower than normal rainfall for the growing season needs to be concerned as to what fields should be planted to wheat.

Practically any herbicide is prone to carryover following extremely dry weather, Stachler says. However, these products are more susceptible to problems: Scepter, Squadron, Detail, Steel, Canopy or Canopy XL. If soil pH is high or low it can increase the effects of herbicide carryover after a drought. Soils with a pH greater than 6.8 are prone to carryover from Canopy and Canopy XL. Fields with a pH of 5.9 or less also may be a problem for Scepter, Squadron, Detail or Steel. Wheat should never be planted in drought-affected fields previously treated with Command.

To determine if fields have herbicide carryover, farmers can do their own soil testing before fall planting, Stachler says. It's a simple process in which the farmer plants a mini test plot to evaluate the effect of herbicides on crop varieties planned for planting. Such testing is not necessary for fields where only Roundup Ultra was used on Roundup-Ready crops.

To perform a test, collect two to three gallons of soil from suspected problem areas where soils are driest or have unusually high or low pH. In no-till and chisel-plowed fields, collect soil to a depth of 3 inches. Collect to a 6-inch depth in moldboard-plowed fields. Gather two to three samples per field while separately collecting soil from the same or nearby fields with similar soil types that were not treated with herbicides. The untreated soils will serve as a control to check for germination and amount of growth.

Next put each sample in a container so the soil is at least 3 inches deep. Then plant 10-20 seeds of corn and wheat into rows. Three to four weeks later, compare the plants in the two soils to determine how much injury has occurred.

The important data to collect to determine chemical injury is: A) germination percentage, B) average height of plants, and C) root volume or weight measurement by digging up all or one-half of the plants very carefully and washing off the soil.

This kind of test is not 100 percent accurate, but it's the best way to determine whether or not to plant wheat. Corn will be more sensitive to herbicide injury than will wheat, so the decision should be based upon the condition of the wheat. Keep in mind that corn injury ALSO may indicate the potential for wheat injury if wheat undergoes stress. If the test shows slight injury, plow the field 10 inches deep to bury and mix the herbicide residue. If severe injury is indicated, do not plant wheat.

For more information about herbicide carryover, contact your local county Extension agent, or check the Ohio State web page at http://ohioline.ag.ohio-state.edu/b789/b789_01.html>.

Adapted from Ag Answers, Amy H. Raley, editor, Purdue University, 1143 Ag Administration Building, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1143, http://www.aganswers.net. ❑

Upcoming Public Meeting on Snow Goose Management

Janet L. Bucknall, State Director, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will hold nine public meetings around the country during September and October. The meetings are to solicit public comments on the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding management of snow geese in the US. New Jersey farmers may wish to attend the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 29 at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (7:00 - 9:30 PM, "A" Wing Lecture Hall, Jimmie Leeds Rd., Pomona, NJ) to comment on the severity and distribution of snow goose damage to agriculture in New Jersey.

Issues presented to the FWS will be addressed in the EIS, and will contribute towards overall snow goose management in the U.S. Similar meetings will be conducted in DE, TX, NM, DC, CA, LA, ND, and MO; this is a unique opportunity for New Jersey residents to directly participate in an important wildlife management process. ❑

Safety & Health from page 2

- Young Worker are at Risk when Working in Agricultural Production Activities
- Farm Workers 55 and Older are at Risk to Fatal Injuries
- Operating Farm Tractors without Rollover Protective Structure is Dangerous
- Carrying Riders on Farm Tractors is Dangerous
- North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks
- Completely Revised Farm Rescue Publication Now Available from NRAES
- How to Cope with the Stress on the Farm

Additional information and materials on farm safety and health are available at the National Safety Council's web site http://www.nsc.org/farmsafe.html. ❑

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