

## IPM NEWSLETTER

### Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 3

March 13, 2008

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Bookmarks: [Weed control](#) [Crop Insurance](#)

#### Weed Management (Larry Steckel, Weed Specialist)

**Pre Applied Herbicides in Soybeans.** It appears that we are going through a sea of change this year in soybean weed control. In an informal phone survey of a number of Ag retailers in Tennessee we are seeing Pre applied herbicides that provide soil residual weed control increase from about 10% in 2007 to 70% this spring. Most of these will be applied during the early burndowns that are going out now. This is a huge change that no one would have guessed just a couple years ago. There are a number of factors coming together to make this happen including the historic soybean prices, higher glyphosate prices and folks trying to manage glyphosate resistant weeds. It appears that the era of relying totally on glyphosate for weed control in soybeans ended this spring.

One thing to keep in mind when deciding which herbicide program to go with this spring is to factor in all the uncertainty on soybean seed quality and supply. The ability to use a herbicide program that does not lock a field into one crop may be more important this year.

There are quite a few different herbicides being used to provide residual weed control in soybeans this spring including Authority First/Sonic, Dual Magnum, Canopy, Gangster, Sencor, Prowl and Valor XLT but the most popular herbicides appear to be Canopy EX, Prefix and Valor. Below are some thoughts on these herbicides:

➤ **Canopy EX (Classic + Express) Rate: 1.1 to 3.3 oz/A**

Positives

- Provides good residual control of many broadleaf and some grassy weeds.
- The 2 oz/A rate is the rate of choice for tank mixing for early burndowns.

Management Considerations

- Will not control ALS resistant Palmer amaranth.
- Rotation back to cotton is 10 months and to corn is 7 months.

➤ **Valor Rate: 2 to 3 oz/A**

Positives

- This has been one of the more popular Pre applied herbicides the past couple of years in soybean and cotton.
- Provides excellent small seeded broadleaf weed control like pigweeds and horseweed.
- This is one of the most crop flexible herbicides as cotton and corn may be planted 30 days after a 2 oz/a rate. Soybeans can be planted immediately after a Valor application.

### Management Considerations

- a. Will provide some grass suppression.

### ➤ **Prefix (Dual Magnum + Reflex) Rate: 1 qt/A**

#### Positives

- a. This is a new premix that has provided exceptional residual control of small seeded broadleaf and grassy weeds in our research.
- b. It is one of the soybean premixes that provides residual control of the widest spectrum of broadleaf and grassy weeds. The others would be Canopy and Valor XLT.

### Management Considerations

- a. 1 qt of Prefix is equivalent to 1pt of Reflex and 1 pt of Dual
- b. If crop plans change, cotton can be planted 1 month after a Prefix application. Corn can be planted 10 months after application

### ➤ **Authority First or Sonic (Authority + FirstRate) Rate: 6.45 oz/A**

#### Positives

- a. Provides good all around residual control of horseweed, pigweeds and morningglory species.

### Management Considerations

- a. Rotation interval for Authority containing products is 18 months for cotton.
- b. FirstRate will not burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed under cold conditions (< 70F).

### ➤ **Gangster (Valor + FirstRate) Rate: 1.8 to 3.6 oz/A**

#### Positives

- a. Provides good all around residual control of horseweed, pigweed and many other weeds.
- b. It was used by a lot of growers last year who had good results.

### Management Considerations

- a. 1.8 oz/A of Gangster provides 0.3 oz/A of FirstRate and 1.5 oz/A of Valor.
- b. FirstRate will not burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed under cold conditions (< 70F).
- c. This product is a co-pac so if conditions are cold use dicamba to burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed and add the Valor for residual control. Then use the FirstRate post in the soybeans as needed.

### ➤ **Canopy (Classic + Sencor) Rate: 2 to 7 oz/A**

#### Positives

- a. This premix has been around for many years and has had a great track record for providing residual control of a broad spectrum of weeds.
- b. The 4 oz/A rate is typically used for tankmixing for early burndowns.

### Management Considerations

- a. Do not apply on soils with less than 1% OM.
- b. Recrop to corn and cotton is 10 months after a Canopy application.

➤ **Dual Magnum or Prowl or Sencor**

Positives

- a. These herbicides have been around a long time and most folks are familiar with them.
- b. Dual Magnum and Prowl provide great residual small-seeded broadleaf and grass control.
- c. Sencor provides good control of many broadleaf weeds and is a good tankmix partner.

Management Considerations

- a. Dual Magnum and Prowl can typically be purchased at lower prices when they are in a premix.

**Corn Weed Control.** Regardless of whether the corn being managed is Roundup Ready or not, the best overall weed control will most often be achieved with some kind of two pass program. One reason this works best is by being able to apply more atrazine in two passes (2.5 lbs/A) compared to all in one application (2 lbs/A). A good approach is to either use Gramoxone Inteon or glyphosate mixed with 16 to 32 ozs/A of atrazine for burndown. Then follow early post emergence (up to 12" corn) with glyphosate plus atrazine or even better a corn premix. Many folks do not realize that herbicides like Bicep II Magnum, Harness, etc. can be applied post emergence to corn. They can and I often recommend this method as those residuals are there when most needed. The corn premixes will mix very well with glyphosate post emergence in corn. In non-Roundup Ready corn, dicamba, Aim or Callisto may need to be added to the premixes applied POST in corn to control any emerged Palmer pigweed.

**Corn Burndown with Clarity.** Many have asked how close to corn planting Clarity can be applied as a burndown. As long as corn seed is planted at least 1.5" deep, Clarity at the 8 oz/A rate can be applied right up to and through planting. Clarity at the 8 oz/A rate can be applied post emergence in corn up to 3 ft tall. Clarity at the 16 oz/A rate can be applied post emergence in corn up to 8" tall. Do not use rates higher than 8 oz/A of Clarity before corn planting on sandy soils.

**Glyphosate Resistant Johnsongrass Found in Arkansas and Mississippi.** This was the news that came out yesterday. It is quite unwelcome news but not unexpected. This is a change in that until now we have been worried mostly about broadleaf weeds developing resistance. Now we have to be on the lookout for grassy weeds too.

**Farm Management Update - Crop Insurance (Chuck Danehower, Area Specialist, Farm Management)**

The sales closing date on crop insurance in Tennessee is March 15. Since that is on a Saturday, it is extended to March 17. That means that there are only a few days left to make a crop insurance decision, if you haven't already done so. The basic information for corn, cotton and soybeans is as follows:

- Corn – APH indemnity price \$4.75 bu., CRC , RA, & GRIP base price \$5.40 bu.,
- Cotton – APH indemnity price \$0.68 lb., CRC, RA, & GRIP base price \$0.77 lb.,
- Soybean – APH indemnity price \$11.50., CRC, RA, & GRIP base price \$13.36 bu.

I would strongly encourage producers to contact a crop insurance agent and have him/her run examples on the coverage that would be available along with the premium cost. Study them and then make a decision. However, time is short if this has not already been done. This is the first time that I can recall, that depending on your yield, the crop insurance guarantee can cover production and maybe land cost.

This is particularly true for corn and soybeans, not so much for cotton and on the revenue based products – CRC & RA.

Let's look at some soybean examples. I am going to use an insurable yield of 29 bushels. First choice is the APH policy. If you use a 65% level at \$11.50 election price, then the coverage is \$217 acre, and you would have to make less than 18.9 bu./acre for there to be a claim. Estimated premium per acre is \$11.71.

Next is CRC & RA with Harvest Option. They are very similar policies, and give guaranteed revenue per acre. Either a drop in yield or price can trigger an indemnity payment. RA with Harvest Option is preferred because CRC has \$3.00 bu. soybean & \$1.50 bu. corn limit on the price move. Also, if prices were to go up at harvest, the guarantee goes up. The guarantee for soybeans at 29 bu. insurable yield and 65% level is \$252 per acre. RA with Harvest Option would cost \$19.60 per acre. CRC would be slightly less, but does have the \$3.00 bu. price limit.

Other policies to consider are GRP & GRIP. These are county based products that are not based on your particular yield but rather the yield of the county. These policies in 2007 should have paid very well, but have not paid yet. That could be a drawback in these policies in that it is usually April or May of the following before the indemnity payment is known. These are generally thought of as disaster policies, because if there is a weather event that affects the county, it will probably affect you also. I think producers who might consider these policies are those spread out over the county, have an insurable yield that is less than actual yields, or have a lot of ground designated high risk that would have a high premium. The GRP policy is usually your cheapest policy and probably will cost at the 90% level around \$5 - \$6 per acre. The GRIP is quite a bit higher and could run as high as \$41 per acre. In GRP if the county has an expected yield of 34.2 bu., then at the 90% level the trigger level would be 30.8 bushels. If the county average on planted acres is less than 30.8 bu., then there is an indemnity payment. With GRIP, using the same county yield, if the county revenue per acre is less than \$411 per acre, then there is a payment. The breakeven price drop at the expected county yield of 34.2 bu. would be around \$12 bu. for there to be an indemnity payment.

If producers need coverage or a guarantee for their particular farm and have an insurable yield that is close to their realistic yields, then the RA policy should be looked at closely. If you fall into the reasons why you should look at the county based policies, then I think they warrant a look.

Definitions of the policies mentioned above – APH – Actual Production History, CRC – Crop Revenue Coverage, RA – Revenue Assurance, GRP – Group Risk Plan, GRIP – Group Revenue Income Protection.

### Price Protection

I know producers have become frustrated at the recent turn of events concerning contracting their crop. With volatile price swings, cotton buyers have stopped contracting along with some grain elevators or at least for harvest delivery. Ones that are contracting have an extremely wide basis. Keep in mind, when a producer contracts a crop, the buyer takes a sell position on the futures exchange whether the Chicago Board of Trade or Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) for cotton. When the prices move up, the elevator has to make margin calls and pay interest on that money. When the grain is delivered, the position is offset and the elevator is out the interest on the margin calls. In volatile markets, that is one reason why the basis has widened. It has been reported in some Ag publications, that some lenders and or corporate heads have cut off the line of credit for the margin calls, saying enough is enough. There

is estimated million and maybe billions by now of dollars of margin calls that have been made. That has dried up the forward contracting and lead to increased basis for those still contracting.

In the past, we would have suggested for a producer to sell futures to fix the price at a favorable level. That is one alternative available. However, my concern is that if the main grain and cotton buyers don't have deep enough pockets to stay in the market, then producers probably shouldn't be in either or at least on a large scale and certainly not without lender approval. Using put option may be an alternative, although they are expensive. On March 11, 2008 a Corn Sept \$5.80 put is around \$.73 bushel making a floor of \$5.07 minus the basis. If basis is \$.50, then the floor is \$4.57 bu. A Soybean Nov. \$13.20 put would cost \$1.50 bu. making a floor of \$11.70 minus basis. If basis is -\$\$.70 then the floor is \$11.00. A Dec Cotton 90 cent put would cost 8 cents (cheaper by 3 – 4 cents from the previous week). The floor would be 82 cents minus basis and deducts. Before contracting stopped that was 11 cents. If that is the case then the floor would be 71 cents. There are other strike prices that can be used depending on the level of protection and how much can be spent on premiums. Right now the put option market may be the only place to fix a price again depending on the elevator. There still would be some basis risk, as it will be difficult to estimate what the basis will be at harvest. To buy a put option, a brokerage account would have to be set up. There are some elevators that will allow you to tie an option to an existing contract.

#### Diversification

As producers get ready to go to the field, I can't help, but put a plug in for diversification of crops, varieties, maturity groups, etc. Prices for all crops are at a level that a slight change in yield will favor one crop over the other. Since we don't know what crop or variety will yield the best, diversify among crops and within crops. We don't need an all or nothing year. We need every crop to have a record year, but that is unlikely so spread out your risk the best you can.

If I can assist you in making an informed decision, please contact me at 731-635-9551 or email at [cdanehow@utk.edu](mailto:cdanehow@utk.edu).

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