

TOP farmer ROUNDTABLE

If you had a chance to sit down with some of the country's leading agricultural authorities and ask them for their comments concerning your farming operation, what would you like to know? These farmers had that chance. Read what they asked and what the specialists had to say. Perhaps some of their comments will apply to you.



FROM SIDNEY LEGG, WINDFALL, INDIANA:

"I farm 330 acres in partnership with my mother. Since 1937, the main business on this farm has been the production of certified farm seeds. In addition we now feed out 200 to 300 head of feeder pigs a year and we maintain a small beef breeding herd (10 to 15 cows) to clean up waste land and crop residues.

"Indiana soybean fields were very weedy in 1961. We need a pre-emergence herbicide to kill both grassy and broadleaf weeds. Is there an answer?"

BURGER:

"While there is no substitute for proper preparation and timely cultivation to control weeds in soybeans, weeds do become firmly established, especially if rainy weather prevents especially good cultivation. Three pre-emergence herbicides, namely, Alanap, Radox, and CIPC, have been approved by the Federal Drug Administration for weed control in commercial soybeans. Where grasses are the major problem, Radox, which is specific for annual grass weeds, may be used. Since Radox is seldom injurious to the germinating soybean and both CIPC and Alanap may be deleterious to soybean stands, farmers will readily use Radox. Both annual grasses and nearly all broadleaved weeds are controlled by Alanap. Alanap rarely controls annual smartweed, which is fairly common in soybean fields. A combination of Alanap and CIPC is used in some states to control the annual grasses and the broadleaved weeds, including annual smartweed, even though there is risk of getting injury to germinating soybeans. For the proper function of these pre-emergence chemicals, the active killing agent must be carried into the soil profile, where the weed seedlings germinate, but not so deep that the germinating soybeans are primarily affected. It is fortunate, therefore, that the kind of weather that prevents timely cultivation is also the type which is needed

for effective weed control by pre-emergence chemicals.

"Preliminary tests using Amiben have shown promise. However, this chemical has been approved for use on soybeans grown for seed only."



FROM ROBERT STOOPS, TIPTON, INDIANA

"I farm 355 family owned acres of prime land in one of the best corn counties of Indiana—except for one 40 acres located quite a ways from the home farm which is tenant-operated. We emphasize hogs in our livestock program but feed steers when we are satisfied with the market outlook. In my cropping program, I still like a rotation with corn, soybeans, wheat and clover. It seems to reduce my fertilizer—and still keep my yields well above 100 bushels per acre.

"For several years we have tried to follow a sound rotation policy and produce according to demands for our products. We maintain about 30 per cent of our acreage in corn, 40 per cent in soybeans and small grains, 30 per cent in rotation pasture. In the past this has given us satisfactory returns on investment and labor. However, in face of what looks like a move to increased control of production and marketing by government, should we go all out in production of grain crops in order to have sufficient base so there will be some choice left in trying to farm on a sound economic basis?"

"Improved seeds and more productive cropping techniques keep building up the mountain of surplus grains. Yet government agencies and agricultural colleges continue to put major emphasis on production in research programs. Isn't it high time to divert the biggest share of this effort into research on how to utilize what we are already producing? What progress is being made in utilization research?"

KUTISH:

"Your best alternative today is the same as it always is — to produce as much corn as your farm can sustain over the long pull. This is your answer as an individual producer. As a member of the farming profession, you are interested in seeing the production balanced with the demand . . . but you can do this only as a member of the profession and in conjunction with others, not as an individual. Sound farm management tells you to get the highest sustained crop income possible from your farm.

"The progress in utilization research is not promising. Nothing on the horizon at present indicates that chemistry offers any hope of solving the surplus problem in the next 5 years. Some increased use of food is possible through the Food for Peace program where food is used as an item of capital development in less-well developed countries of the world.

"The point is this — our yields have been going up

faster than our needs; our output per man has been going up faster than our needs. If we are going to continue to develop and adopt these output increasing innovations, we just don't need as many acres or men in crop farming as we have had in the past.

"But on prime land like yours, the only sound alternative for you as an individual is to crop it to give the highest income. If later some adjustment program calls for an equal reduction by all producers, you should start to reduce from your optimum level of production, not some lesser level."



FROM BERNARD CAMPION JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

"I feed out 300 head of cattle and raise 700 to 800 hogs per year. I use both high moisture shelled corn from a silo and mature ear corn. From a nutrition standpoint, what is the difference in feeding value between the two?"

MORRISON:

"Actually there is little nutritional difference in the dry matter contained in high moisture shelled corn and the grain part of mature ear corn, for either hogs or beef cattle. However, it must be realized that the high moisture shelled corn will contain about 25- to 30% moisture whereas grain from mature ear corn will contain about 16-20% moisture as commonly fed on the farm. Thus, it is often necessary for the animals to consume more of the high moisture corn.

"On the other hand, high moisture corn seems to be more palatable to animals particularly hogs and especially towards the end of the feeding season when farm stored crib corn dries out to moisture levels of between 12-16%. It is also logical to suspect that high moisture corn will contain a higher vitamin

"So far, the experimental results with beef cattle with respect to high moisture corn feeding have been somewhat variable, but in general we can state that rates of gain and efficiency of feed use by cattle fed dry or ensiled high moisture corn are quite similar. When shelled grains are used, those cattle on high moisture corn will usually eat enough more high moisture corn to compensate for the less dry matter in the corn.

"Now, as far as the direct comparison of dry mature ear corn and high moisture shelled corn is concerned, the daily gain of cattle on the high moisture shelled corn will be slightly better than those cattle on dry mature ear corn, simply because they will be consuming more total digestible nutrients in their feed. Under normal conditions we might

expect about 0.2 lb. daily gain less for the cattle on the ear corn. It should be pointed out that if a farmer is using high moisture corn storage he should always grind the grain or ear corn, either at the time of filling or else at time of feeding for the best results.

"For pigs, average daily gains of growing-finishing pigs are quite similar when fed either high moisture or dry shelled corn. Although variable results have been obtained, it generally takes somewhat more feed per hundred pounds of gain with ensiled shelled corn than with dry shelled corn.

THE PANEL



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Dr. A. W.
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a leading agronomist from the University of Illinois. He was born and reared on a 263 acre corn farm near Jasper, Indiana. Dr. Burger is an author of many publications of field crops management and is a recognized authority.



Dr. Spencer H.
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