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The Days of Maneb are Numbered

By Kenny Seebold. From Kentucky Pest News, Number 1186 February 10, 2009
Online at: www.uky.edu/Agriculture/kpn/kpnhome.htm

In late 2008, United Phosphorus, Inc. (UPI) and DuPont voluntarily cancelled all registrations for maneb fungicides in the U.S. Maneb products, important protectant fungicides used by many producers in Kentucky, include Maneb 75DF and 80WP (UPI) and Manex (DuPont), as well as home garden materials offered by companies such as Hi-Yield and Bonide. The main reason for the voluntary cancellation was based on the high cost of re-registration in the light of relatively low sales for maneb products. Also, the availability of mancozeb (Dithane, Penncozeb, Manzate) as a substitute for some maneb uses was also cited as a reason for dropping maneb.

Maneb was produced by UPI, the sole manufacturer of the active ingredient, through the end of 2008; maneb products can be sold by UPI and DuPont through the end of 2009. However, the supply of maneb may be limited in smaller markets like Kentucky, and we face the potential of shortages. Moreover, the loss of maneb on certain crops takes away an important protectant fungicide and an option for tank-mixes and rotations with fungicides like Quadris that are prone to the development of resistance. On pepper, maneb is the only effective protectant fungicide labeled, and it is also recommended as a tank-mix with fixed copper to improve performance against bacterial leaf spot.

For some vegetable producers, the loss of maneb will have minimal impact, since mancozeb products can be substituted. Growers who produce sweet corn, cucurbits (except pumpkins and winter squash), onions, potatoes, and tomatoes can simply switch maneb for Dithane, Penncozeb, or Manzate. On the down side, those who produce beans, brassicas, eggplant, leafy vegetables, peppers, pumpkins will not be able to use mancozeb. In the short term, these producers should plan to secure maneb as quickly as possible for 2009 to ensure an adequate supply of product.

The EPA has been petitioned to expand mancozeb's label to include some of the crops that had been only on the maneb label; however, a decision will not be made until July of 2009 or later - too late to be of help for many during the upcoming season, but will help alleviate the situation in 2010 and beyond. For this season, DuPont has expressed willingness to support Section 18 emergency exemptions for use of mancozeb on maneb-only crops; this process is being investigated and could provide Kentucky's producers with a short-term fix to the maneb crisis that is unfolding. Please check Kentucky Pest News for updates on the maneb crisis, or contact me at kwseebold@uky.edu for latest developments.

Farm Life Subsidized by a Job Elsewhere by Andrew Martin

From: The Feed, The New York Times, Feb. 8, 2009, pg 6 BU Y

Have you thought of embracing the "Green Acres" life style. An increasing number of Americans are doing that but few are making a living out of it and their work is subsidized by an off farm job.

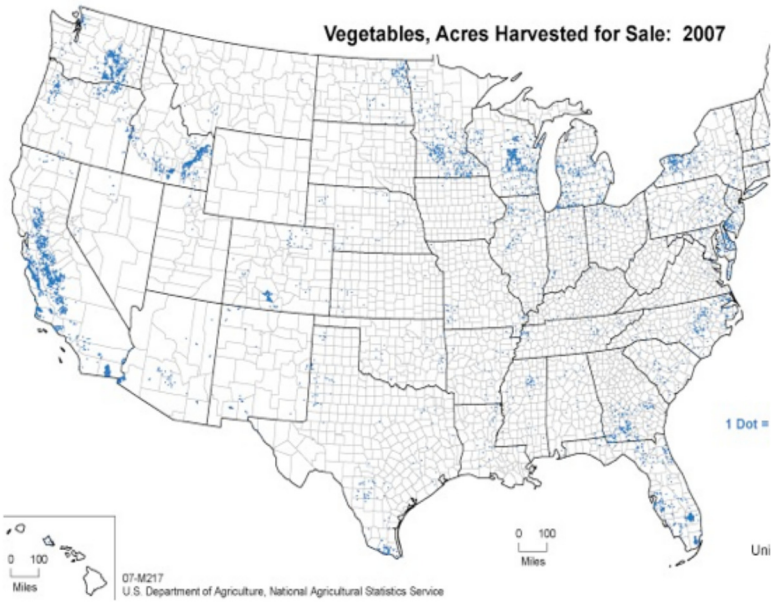
The USDA Census of Agriculture said the number of farms increased by 4 percent from 2002 to 2007 with most of the farms being small, part time operations. A snapshot of American farming shows that it is either really big or really small farms. Some 900,000 of the nation's 2.2 million farms generated $2,500 or less in sales in 2007. Only 1 million of the 2.2 million farms reported positive income from agriculture. Five percent of total farms accounted for 75 percent of agricultural production. The average farmer today is a white 57 year old male who farms 418 acres and generates $135,000 in agricultural sales. Tom Vilsack, new secretary of Agriculture, has acknowledged the problem for new enterprises and has vowed to help the small farmer. The agency wants to encourage opportunities like: energy production, carbon sequestration, conservation and ecotourism.

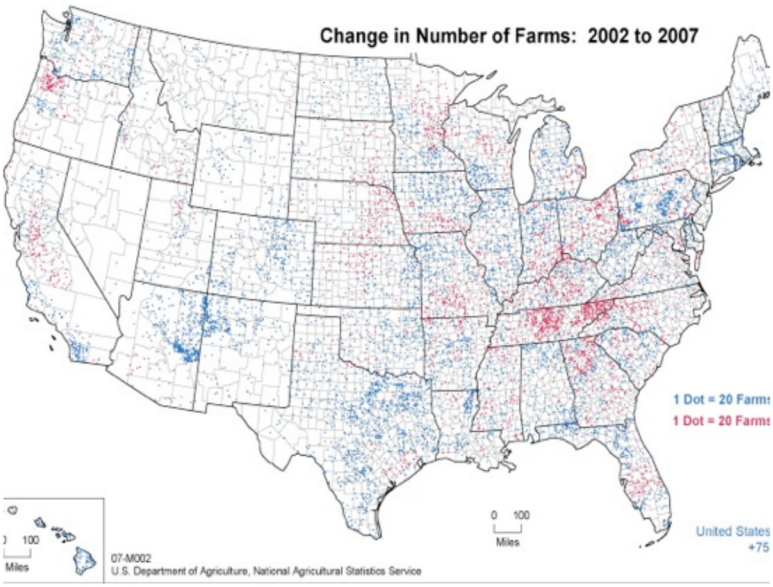
Today, American farmers are becoming more diverse and from 2002 to 2007, the number of female farmers increased by 30 percent to 306,200. The number of Hispanic farmers increased 10 percent and the number of black and Asian farmers also grew. About of a third of the farms are residential/lifestyle farms meaning that they generate less than $250,000 in sales with the farmer holding an off the farm job.

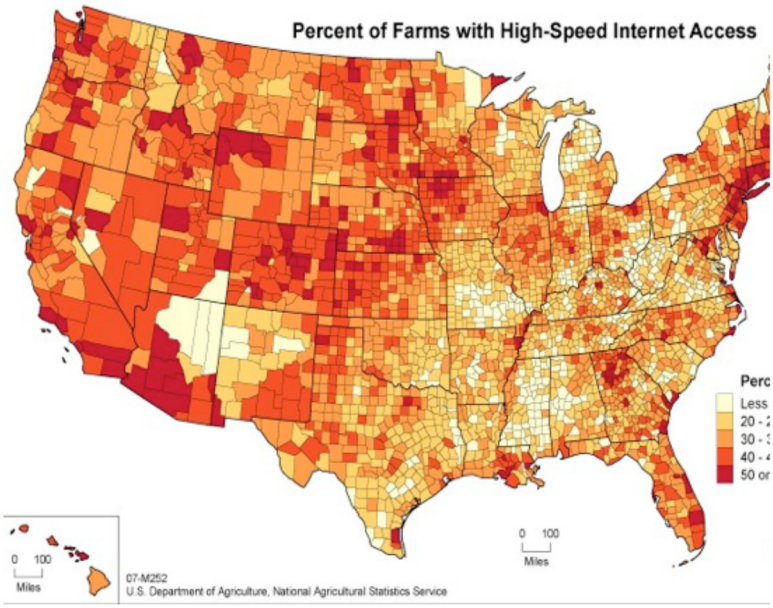
While most farms grow cattle or crops, a growing number are focused on niche areas like selling at farmer's markets, creating energy and growing organics. There are about 18,200 organic farms in 2007 compared with 12,000 in 2002, a 50 percent increase.

Secretary of Agriculture, Vilsack said he hoped his agency could link small farmers with creative new market opportunities like institutional buyers and government nutrition programs.

For available publications from the 2007 census and online highlights go to: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.asp



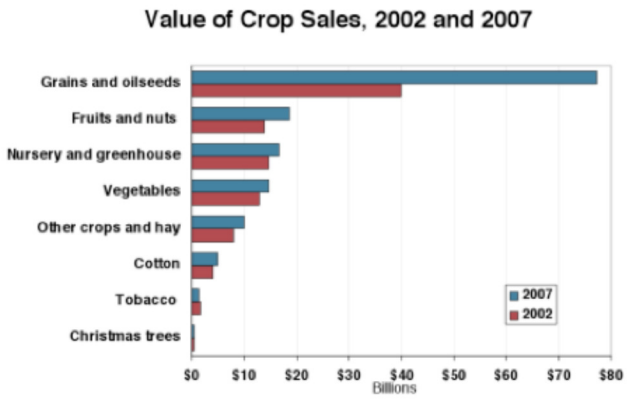




Internet Access

- 57 percent of all farms

• Up 7 percentage points from 2002
• 58 percent of farms with Internet have high-speed access



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) incentives for specialty crop growers – Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension, IPM Program

Specialty crop growers who are interested in pest management now have another reason to consider adopting practices that are potentially environmentally and economically beneficial, namely monetary incentives to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) practices. At a recent meeting between the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Ohio State University (OSU) IPM program, and OSU fruit and vegetable specialists, four individual scenarios were developed to help growers qualify for funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in 2009. EQIP is a competitive conservation program where growers agree to certain practices and are ranked by the protection given to key resources on their operation such as soil, water, air, plants, and animals. The four scenarios developed for specialty crop growers are general vegetable IPM (cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peppers, pickles, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, radishes, snap beans, and tomatoes), sweet corn IPM, tree fruit IPM (apples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries), and strawberry IPM. Growers who currently grow any of the above listed crops are eligible to apply. EQIP contracts are typically awarded for up to three years, and are paid annually as a per acre incentive for adopting specific pest management practices. Each IPM scenario describes activities such as scouting, crop rotation, cover crops, insect, weed, and disease monitoring, etc. The incentive rates for fiscal year 2009 for each of the four scenarios are as follows: General vegetable IPM, $121/A; Sweet corn IPM, $42/A; Tree fruit IPM, $227/A; and Strawberry IPM, $158/A.

Unlike other years where EQIP funds have been available for pest management but fruit and vegetable growers had difficulty scoring and ranking high enough to be offered contracts, specialty crop growers will NOT have to compete against animal agriculture, field crop farmers, or any other entity except other specialty crop growers. The IPM Program and NRCS staff have been negotiating a "special project" status for a portion of the state EQIP funding to be allocated only to specialty crop growers. The amount of funding within the "special project" has yet to be determined but will be known once EQIP officially opens, which has not been announced yet.

So what does this mean to specialty crop growers? For growers who already do a fair amount of pest management on their farm operation, it does not necessarily mean you will receive incentive payments to continue those practices, only if you add new ones. In fact, EQIP is designed primarily to protect resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals) and is aimed at growers who can demonstrate continued adoption of specific pest management practices over time. To see if your farm operation could benefit from EQIP, there are several steps outlined below.

Step one, take the appropriate OSU IPM Element self assessment tool online (http://ipm.osu.edu/pageview.asp?id=10) and establish your benchmark IPM score for the appropriate crop(s). While all the vegetable and tree fruit IPM elements are posted at the OSU IPM website, they are currently being revised and updated specifically for use in EQIP. The final versions will be posted to the website by March 1, 2009. The strawberry IPM element is currently being developed and will also be posted by this date. Once a grower has established a benchmark IPM score, they need to consider if it can be increased at least 10% every year of the contract by adopting additional practices, and if by the third year of the contract, at least 60% of the practices listed in an IPM Element can be adopted to maintain program compliance. For example, if your benchmark IPM score in sweet corn is 60%, by the end of the third contract year, the grower will need to use at least 90% of the practices outlined in the IPM element for sweet corn (10% adoption increase / year). If you do not have access to the internet, visit your local Extension office and they can print the IPM Elements documents for you.

Step two to qualify for government programs such as EQIP is to register at your county Farm Service Agency (FSA). At the FSA office (http://www.fsa.usda.gov) expect to fill out paperwork related to contact information, average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for years 2005-2007, and form AD-1026 which determines if your proposed fields are classified as highly erodible land or wetlands. If your farming operation has partners or is set up as a corporation, there are additional forms to fill out for each member of the partnership. There is also a stipulation if your AGI is greater than $1 million from non-farm sources, and less than 66.6% of your total AGI is derived from farming, you are ineligible for this program. Lastly, if you grow on rented land that you wish to enroll in a conservation program, you will need documentation from the land owner stating this program and it's terms are acceptable.

Step three is to contact your local NRCS District Conservationist (http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/directories.html#These) and set an appointment to have your FSA documentation reviewed for EQIP eligibility and have your farm operation inspected for resource concerns. Based on your benchmark IPM score and the resource concerns outlined by your District Conservationist, you should have enough information to determine how suitable your operation is for a formal EQIP application.

For growers who have not participated in conservation programs before, NRCS has put together a step-by-step guide on how to apply for conservation programs at http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/program_application/applying_for_programs.html.

For more information about EQIP in general, please visit http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2008.html. Please note this is for general reference only as it applies specifically to last year's (2008) signup.

This article was meant to serve as an introduction for specialty crop growers to access EQIP funds for fiscal year 2009. When more details about the "special project" amount and opening day become available, we'll make sure that information gets released as soon as possible. If you have any more questions about EQIP, contact your local FSA office or NRCS District Conservationist.