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GREEN ROOFS ARE SPROUTING UP

Green roofs are popping up around the United States and Canada, but green roof technology is considerably behind our European neighbors.

By Deb Happe

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RANGELAND FIELD DATA TECHNIQUES AND DATA APPLICATIONS

The last decade has seen new concepts in evaluating rangeland. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is using this info for program implementation decisions.

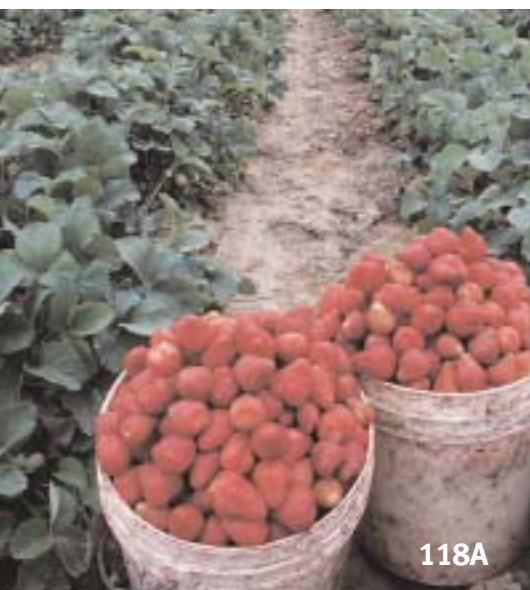
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LIFE AFTER METHYL BROMIDE

Methyl bromide is one of the top five most widely used pesticides in the world. What is on the horizon during its current phase out?

By Pat Hemminger



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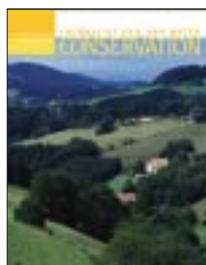
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Photo by PhotoDisc.



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RAISE YOUR VOICE

YOUR FORUM TO REACT TO PUBLISHED ARTICLES, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND DESCRIBE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION INCLUDING LEGISLATION

Retrospective gets praise

Reference: May/June issue *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

Article: “Soil Conservation and SWCS: A Forty-Year Retrospective,” by Max Schnepf.

My Comment: Dear Max, “Bravo.”

—Roland Willis, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Organic and/or SWCS

Max Schnepf in his 40-year retrospective of soil conservation and SWCS (May/June, 2005) poses questions about our future based on what we are and what we were. I also have questions about the direction our Society is going. Have we gone too far in our politically correct (PC) world seeking diversity? Should all be welcome into our Society? Including those whose philosophy is diametrically opposed to those of us who believe soil erosion caused by tillage is the No. 1 threat to our environment?

I’m talking about the intrusion of “organic” agriculture into SWCS and the attempt to convince us that “organic” is a viable alternative in soil and water conservation. It is not combatable! “Organic”

“Where does SWCS go? I’m not sure, but I do know we need to use all the science and technology available to get there.”

—Jerry Crew, Webb, IA

allows only tillage for pest control because they disavow ALL science and technology.

The greatest breakthrough for soil conservation is Roundup Ready technology, which allows farmers to spray Roundup (broad spectrum herbicide) killing all weeds without harming the crop, and eliminates the need for tillage. This saved fossil fuel and sends less carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. Can’t use this!

We splice genes into plants that allow the plant to produce a poison that kills bugs when they take a bite. One hundred percent control without spraying one ounce of insecticide and perhaps endangering the environment. Can’t use that!

The only reason “organic” is part of our dialogue (our free enterprise system would

have eliminated “organic” long ago because the produce is inferior and more expensive) is they pray on the fear of the big C. (cancer).

There is zero proof that modern food production methods cause cancer, but that is of little concern to a PC liberal biased crowd aided and abetted by media using innuendo, half-truths, and downright lies to further their political agenda. Billions have consumed genetically-modified plants with no deaths, no illness, and, in fact, not one case of the sniffles!

Forty years ago, H. Wayne Pritchard (executive director Society from 1952–1978) stated, “that the soil from which plant life springs was a basic and fundamental link to all other renewable natural resources.” That link is endangered by the excessive tillage required with “organic” production. Why would we go back to a system that produced the Dust Bowl of the 30’s?

Where does SWCS go? I’m not sure, but I do know we need to use all the science and technology available to get there.

—Jerry Crew, Webb, IA

Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.

Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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— Deb Happe, editor