North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

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NEWS RELEASE

Ag Chemical Usage
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NORTH DAKOTA FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL USAGE

North Dakota farm operators applied nitrogen to 98 percent of their barley acres in 2003, according to USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Phosphate was applied to 91 percent of the barley acres, while potash applications covered 20 percent. No previous comparison data exist for barley fertilizer usage.

Nitrogen was applied to 98 percent of the corn planted acreage in 2003. Phosphate was applied to 87 percent and potash to 37 percent. The most recent comparison data for corn was from 2001. During 2001, nitrogen was applied to 94 percent of the corn acreage, phosphate 83 percent, and potash 38 percent.

During 2003, nitrogen was applied to 97 percent of the fall potato acreage, phosphate was applied to 92 percent, and potash was applied to 84 percent. Comparison data for fall potato fertilizer usage come from 1999. That year, nitrogen was applied to 99 percent of the fall potato planted acreage, phosphate 98 percent, and potash 83 percent.

The most popular herbicide applied to barley in North Dakota during 2003 was MCPA, which was used on 63 percent of the acreage. Other commonly used herbicides for barley include Fenoxaprop, Bromoxynil and 2,4-D applied to 58 percent, 38 percent and 31 percent of the acreage, respectively. No previous comparison data exist for barley chemical usage.

In corn, Glyphosate was the most commonly applied herbicide, covering 40 percent of the 2003 acreage. This was a significant increase from just 11 percent in 2001, and only 4 percent in 2000. Atrazine followed in popularity with application to 34 percent of the 2003 corn crop.

Rimsulfuron was the most used herbicide in fall potatoes in 2003, with 44 percent of the acreage covered. Applied to 42 percent of the acreage, Metribuzin fell from its 1997 coverage of 53 percent, when it was the most popular fall potato herbicide. The most commonly applied fungicides in 2003 to fall potatoes were Chlorothalonil and Mancozeb. They were applied to 80 percent and 79 percent of the acreage, respectively. In 1997, Chlorothalonil was applied to 92 percent of the fall potatoes and Mancozeb to 49 percent. Cyfluthrin and Imidacloprid were the widest applied insecticides for fall potatoes. Each covered 45 percent of the acreage in 2003, while neither accounted for over 10% of the acreage in 1997.

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on targeted crops for the 2003 crop year. The farmers operating the sampled fields were personally interviewed late in the growing season or after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed.

For More Information Contact:

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