

Intensive Wheat Management Conference Set for March 10-11, 1994

PLANS for the 1994 Intensive Wheat Management Conference have been announced by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). This Conference is one of a continuing series of educational programs focusing on the need for intensified crop management to improve producer profitability and the production of quality wheat.

The Conference is slated for March 10-11, 1994 at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel in Denver, CO. Wheat production practices across the U.S. and Canada will be addressed in a series of presentations by growers, researchers, Extension personnel, and representatives of agriculture supply industries. The orientation of the Conference presentations will be on why and how intensified crop management can improve production and grower profitability.

Specific program topics will include the importance of variety choice, stand estab-

lishment, seed size, seed treatments, and plant population in intensive management; the relation of plant growth stages to crop management decisions; use and practicality of tramlines; individualized phosphorus and potassium management decisions; yield variability and optimum fertilization; using chloride to suppress diseases and boost yields; pest management for intensive cropping systems; the impacts of intensive cropping systems on water use efficiency, pest management, input needs, economics and environment; economic impacts of better crop management for individuals and communities; and risk management in wheat production.

A proceedings of the Conference papers will be available to all registrants. Extra copies will be available by mail.

For more information, contact the PPI office in Manhattan, KS; phone (913) 776-0273, FAX (913) 776-8347. ■

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an option that can be considered. The waste contains calcium chloride (CaCl_2), magnesium chloride (MgCl_2) and any KCl not consumed by the ion exchange resin. The K in softened water is also usable as a plant nutrient. When using K-softened water on house plants, large volumes should be utilized to prevent accumulation of soluble salts in the plant container.

In many farm operations, water softening/treatment is an important management component. All livestock producers monitor nitrate levels in their wells, veal producers watch iron levels closely, and many dairy operators treat their water to make milk house clean-up easier. Using KCl for water treatment is an option in each of these situations. In many operations, barn water and regenerate wastewater are routed into the manure pit, enriching the manure with K which is returned to cropland. This bypasses the septic system for wastewater treatment and decreases the amount of salts in water that enters the drain field.

Also of note, white KCl which is used as fertilizer cannot be substituted for the KCl used in the water softening market. The anti-caking and anti-dusting agents used to facilitate bulk handling of KCl for fertilizer could damage the exchange resins in water treatment systems. Potassium chloride water softening salt is a very clean industrial grade material which is very highly compacted into pellets at least $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch in size and packaged in 40 lb bags.

Summary

In conclusion, Na really has no redeeming value in the environment outside of saltwater or brackish water ecosystems. If alternatives to NaCl for water treatment can be developed, they should be used. Potassium chloride is a logical choice to reduce Na discharge from water softening systems, to provide additional K in human diets and to serve as a nutrient source for plants. ■