



PEST MANAGEMENT & CROP DEVELOPMENT

BULLETIN

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Last Issue for 1997

This is the last issue of the *Pest Management & Crop Development Bulletin* for 1997. What a year it has been—a year like no other. A lot of exciting new things are happening in agricultural crop protection, and changes are occurring rapidly. Never before has pest management been so complex and exhilarating. We hope we have been able to keep you abreast of some of the changes and provide you with our viewpoint about their impact on pest management in particular and agriculture in general. As we continue to publish this *Bulletin*, both in print and on the World Wide Web, we will do our best to make it useful for your business. Whenever you get an opportunity, give a call or drop a line about suggestions for improvement.

All of us who write articles for this *Bulletin* thank you very much for your significant input and enduring support throughout the year. We wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season with family and friends.

Kevin Steffey, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

UPCOMING MEETINGS

50 Years of “Spray School”—Final Notice

I take this last opportunity in 1997 to encourage you to attend the **1998 Illinois Agricultural Pesticides Conference** to be held January 6, 7, and 8 at the Illini Union on the Urbana campus. Your attendance will provide you with excellent information (presentations, *Proceedings*, and *Handbook*); a nifty commemorative shoulder bag inscribed with the 50th anniversary logo (as part of your registration fee); and the opportunity to help us celebrate the history of the conference and honor four men who contributed significantly to Illinois agriculture during their careers.

The last two issues of the *Bulletin* (no. 23 and 24, October 10 and November 7, respectively) included considerable information about the conference, but a few items need clarification and updating. I have included another preregistration form to provide additional information about the banquet to be held on January 6. Because a preregistration form for the **1998 Illinois Crop Protection Workshop** also is included, please take care when completing the form(s). Make certain you complete and send the appropriate form for the educational event you wish to attend.

CEUs for CCAs. Although I estimated that at least 10 hours of CEUs would be awarded, I underestimated. Officially, people who attend all sessions of the conference will be awarded 13.4 CEUs (0.8 in Soil and Water Management, 11.6 in Integrated Pest Management, and 1.0 in Crop Production). This is a healthy dose of CEUs for all Certified Crop Advisers who want to get an early start on accumulating them in 1998.

Banquet. A banquet honoring Pete Petty, Steve Moore, Ellery Knake, and Marshal McGlamery will be January 6 at the Krannert Center for the Per-

forming Arts. Because, I'm told, the starting time is not printed anywhere else, you should know that the banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. The menu looks great: assorted hors d'oeuvres, southwestern-inspired appetizer, char-grilled chicken breast and a skewer of jumbo poached shrimp, rice and vegetables, and assorted desserts. Please note that the banquet is not included in the registration fee. The preregistration form at the back of this issue lists the banquet option. If you plan to attend both the conference and the banquet, please complete the form and send it to Conferences and Institutes soon.

Sad Note. Just about 3 weeks after Pete Petty passed away, Steve Moore, the second Chair of this conference, died at his home in Treasure Island, Florida. It is a shame that neither Steve nor Pete will be with us to celebrate their leadership of and dedication to this program. Nevertheless, we will honor their memories and offer the thanks they deserve.

As you think about 1998, please consider the **1998 Illinois Agricultural Pesticides Conference** as the first educational program in what we hope will be a complete agenda for information as you plan for the growing season. I hope to see you there!

Kevin Steffey, Extension Entomology,
(217)333-6652

Program Finalized, 24th Illinois Crop Protection Workshop

The 1998 Crop Protection Workshop will be March 3 and 4, 1998. Specialized sessions will be offered in crop production and development, entomology, weed science, and plant pathology. The instructors will provide hands-on materials in a classroom-style setting. Participants who register for the workshop can "tailor-make" their schedules by signing up for only those classes in which they are most interested. Instructors from the University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, and Purdue University will provide the latest information in their specialties.

The workshop has been approved by the **Illinois Certified Crop Adviser Program** and assigned credits in pest management, crop production, soil and water management, and soil fertility. One general session will feature two speakers addressing the *regulation of transgenic crops* and also how to manage *identity-preserved grain*. The workshop is designed for crop consultants, agronomists, agrichemical and seed company representatives, soil conservationists, farmers, Extension educators, pesticide dealers and applicators, farm managers, and others interested in crop protection issues.

Of the 23 specialized sessions, participants will be able to attend seven during the 2-day program. Each specialized session lasts 1.5 hours and provides hands-on materials. The following list previews the sessions offered. Many sessions have limited enrollments, so register early to guarantee a seat in your desired classes.

(1) Latest Technologies for Drift Reduction: Nozzles and More. A discussion of drift-control management will feature the latest technologies beyond nozzles. **Instructor:** Bob Wolf, agricultural engineer, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(2) Remote Sensing: Applications and Expectations. Advances are occurring very rapidly in the arena of remote sensing. This is good news for agriculture. Greater spatial resolutions similar to aerial photography from space are now accessible. A discussion of greater spatial, spectral, and temporal resolutions with remote sensing technology will be featured. **Instructor:** Chris J. Johannsen, professor of agronomy, Purdue U., and director of the Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing (LARS) (1.5 CCA credits, Crop Production).

(3) Aspects of Site-Specific Management. A discussion of variable-rate seeding technologies and fertilization will be presented. Potential problems and benefits drawn from actual variable-rate experiments will be discussed. **Instructor:** Don Bullock, associate professor, Department of

Crop Sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Crop Production).

(4) Manure Management for Optimum Yield and Minimal Impact on the Environment. Used properly, manure will supply valuable nutrients for crop production. However, without precautions, manure application can cause environmental problems. This session will discuss best management practices for designing a manure-nutrient management program. **Instructor:** Bob Hoelt, professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Soil and Water Management).

(5) Water Quality and Your Favorite Herbicides. The **Food Quality Protection Act** amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and will have an ever-increasing effect on pesticide dealers throughout Illinois. Learn how dietary exposure to pesticides through food and water may limit where and how herbicides may be used. **Instructor:** Dave Pike, agronomist, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Soil and Water Management).

(6) Growth and Management of Soybeans. Interactions of environmental factors with the growth, development, and yield of soybeans will be discussed. By understanding the reaction of soybeans to stress factors in the environment, you can manage to meet the needs of the crop and enhance yield potential. **Instructor:** Gary Pepper, associate professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Crop Production).

(7) Corn Production and Narrow Rows: Is the Verdict In? A discussion of research conducted in Illinois and Iowa will be presented on the effects of narrow-row corn production on yield. Other specific management considerations in producing narrow-row corn also will be offered. **Instructor:** Emerson Nafziger, professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Crop Production).

(8) Grass Weed Seedling Identification. Participants will learn what vegetative characteristics are important in

identifying grass weed seedlings. Live specimens will be used to illustrate these traits, as well as to test participants' ability to identify grass seedlings. Participants should bring a hand-held lens. **Instructor:** Dave Feltes, IPM Educator, Quad Cities (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(9) Broadleaf Weed Seedling Identification. Identification of seedling broadleaf weeds will be presented. Growers and custom applicators are finding that it pays to scout fields early and identify weeds correctly before they become too large to be controlled effectively with postemergence herbicides. Some broadleaves may resemble other species, or even be from the same family but have very different tolerance to herbicides. Therefore, it is critical to correctly identify broadleaves in their early stages before the herbicide is selected and applied.

Instructor: Robert Bellm, crop systems Educator, Edwardsville (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(10) Waterhemp and Kochia: Management of Two Troublesome Weed Species. Waterhemp presented producers and custom applicators with a significant dilemma during the 1997 season. Kochia has become established across a significant portion of central Illinois and presents new challenges. Understanding the biology and ecology of these species can greatly improve the odds for successful control. The latest field research findings on management programs for these species will be discussed. **Instructor:** Aaron Hager, Extension specialist, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(11) Insects on the Internet, Weeds on the Web, Disease Domains, Newsletters on the Net. During recent years, a major migration of pest control information to the Internet has taken place. Participants access crop protection and production information on-line from various sources, including university, government, and industry. **Instructor:** Dennis Bowman, crop systems Educator, Champaign (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(12) Understanding Herbicide Modes of Action: Invaluable in Diagnosing Herbicide Injury Symptoms. A working knowledge of herbicide mode of action (how a herbicide controls a plant) can be beneficial when planning a weed control program. Ideally, a herbicide should provide good control without adverse effects on the crop. However, crops are often injured by herbicides. This session will discuss the modes of action of herbicides commonly used in corn and soybean production. Injury symptoms associated with herbicide families also will be noted. **Instructor:** Marshal McGlamery, professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(13) How's Your Weed Control Working? The Biology Underlying System Efficacy. A discussion of the potential use of economic thresholds in managing weeds will be presented. What are the obstacles in the adoption and use of thresholds in weed management systems? How are weed populations affected long term by natural sources of mortality, as well as our management systems? **Instructor:** Dave Mortensen, associate professor of weed science, U. Nebraska (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(14) Herbicide Carryover: Causes, Incidence, and Solutions. Herbicide persistence is an important property of soil-applied herbicides and some postemergence products that allows for extended weed control. If a herbicide remains in the soil and is present when a rotational (and susceptible) crop is planted, the persistence causes herbicide carryover. Degradation rates in the soil under normal environmental conditions typically reduce herbicide concentrations to sub-lethal levels for rotational crops. Application timing, soil pH, and climatic conditions in the intervening months between target crop and the following crop also may be important in determining the potential for herbicide carryover. **Instructor:** Bill Simmons, associate professor, natural resources and environmental sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(15) Weed Management Systems in Herbicide-Resistant/Tolerant Crops. This session will focus on optimizing weed management strategies in herbicide-resistant/tolerant crops, including Roundup Ready soybeans, Liberty Link corn, imidazolinone-resistant/tolerant (IR/IT) corn, and Poast Protected corn. The session also will provide initial insight on managing weeds in Roundup Ready corn. Use of herbicide-resistant/tolerant crops for managing problem weeds also will be addressed. **Instructor:** Steve Hart, assistant professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(16) Troubleshooting Field Crop Problems. Draw from field experiences to see if you can diagnose challenging field crop injury problems. The session will cover insect, disease, herbicide injury, and abiotic problems, and their resolution. **Instructors:** George Czapar, IPM Educator, Springfield, and Suzanne Bissonnette, IPM Educator, Champaign (1.5 CCA credits, Crop Production).

(17) Management of Soybean Insect Pests. Join this session for a discussion of currently recommended soybean pest management practices and an overview of ongoing IPM research. We will focus on the future, emphasizing anticipated changes in soybean IPM technology and philosophy. Soybean insect specimens will be available to sharpen your identification skills. **Instructor:** Charlie Helm, research scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(18) Managing European Corn Borer with *Bt* Hybrids. Several methods for managing European corn borer populations in corn will be presented, including insecticide use and timing, native resistance, and *Bt* transgenic corn. Discussions will aim to improve understanding of damage/loss relationships, field scouting, and economic thresholds. **Instructor:** Ken Ostlie, associate professor, entomology, U. Minnesota (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(19) Seed Corn Insect Management.

This session will cover monitoring, decision making, and insecticide selection for control of insects in seed-corn production. An emphasis will be corn earworms and European corn borers. **Instructor:** Rick Foster, associate professor, entomology, Purdue U. (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(20) Sampling Insect Populations: What Tools and Tricks of the Trade Are Available?

Monitoring fields for pests, an integral component of pest management, can be time and labor intensive. However, with a basic understanding of the crop and pest, the producer can streamline field sampling to get necessary decision-making information efficiently. Passive and active field-sampling techniques, equipment, reference resources, and other tricks of the trade will be discussed and demonstrated. **Instructor:** John Obermeyer, IPM Extension specialist, entomology, Purdue U. (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(21) Management of Western Corn Rootworms: Exploring the Options.

The basics of corn rootworm biology, ecology, and management will be reviewed briefly. Special emphasis will be placed on the latest management opportunities and difficulties; including larval injury to corn grown in rotation, insecticide resistance, and areawide management of adult rootworms to prevent larval injury. **Instructor:** Michael Gray, associate professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(22) Recognition and Management of Key Corn and Soybean Diseases in Illinois.

Sharpen skills in identifying key insect diseases of corn and soybeans. A discussion of proper management strategies also will be provided. **Instructor:** Walker Kirby, associate professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

(23) Diagnosis and Management of Important Nematode Problems in Illinois.

Improve skills in determining nematode diseases of corn and soy-

beans. Focus on how to identify problem areas in fields and confirm that nematodes are involved by using proper equipment and sampling techniques. Some key nematode pests will be available for viewing. **Instructor:** Dale Edwards, associate professor, crop sciences, U. Illinois (1.5 CCA credits, Pest Management).

If you have questions on registration, please call Conferences and Institutes at (217)333-2881. If you have questions concerning the content of the workshop, please give me a call.

Mike Gray, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

Reminder: Field Crop Pest Management Short Course

Don't forget about the Field Crop Pest Management Short Course offered in identical back-to-back sessions on March 23 to 24 and March 25 to 26, 1998. Each session will cover the basics of corn and soybean growth and development, as well as provide intensive training in entomology, plant pathology, and weed science. Continuing education credits for the Illinois Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Program will be offered in pest management and crop production.

For more information about registration, please call Conferences and Institutes at (217)333-2881. For information on program content, call Aaron Hager, Department of Crop Sciences, at (217)333-4424.

Mike Gray, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

University of Illinois Off-Campus Courses, Spring 1998

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Office of Continuing Education and Public Service, in cooperation with UIUC academic departments, is offering several agriculture-related courses throughout Illinois during the spring semester, 1998.

Although courses that focus on animal science, environmental education, food science, and horticulture also will be offered, only those that focus on field crops are listed here.

The Department of Crop Sciences now offers a nondegree Certificate of Completion option for those interested in increasing their knowledge of crop production. To receive the certificate, a student must have a B.S. degree in crop sciences or a related field and successfully complete two 300-level courses and one 400-level course, other than Agronomy 493 (Special Problems), in crop production and related topics. For further information, please contact Fred Below, (800)252-1360, ext. 39745, or Faye Lesht, (800)252-1360, ext. 3-3061.

Northwestern Region. Two courses. For information, contact Robbin Nelson, Office of Statewide Programming, 1601 Parkview, Rockford, IL 61107, (815)395-5592.

Crop Sciences (CPSC) 329, Fundamentals of Insect Pest Management (Rock Island). 4 hours or 1 unit. 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., Mondays, January 26 to May 4, 1998. By agreement between class members and instructors, Saturday classes might be added so that the course can conclude before May. No class March 9; class will meet during campus spring break, March 23. Kevin Steffey, professor, and Mike Gray, associate professor.

CPSC 418, Crop Growth and Development (Malta). 1 unit. 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., Wednesdays, January 21 to April 8, 1998. Class will meet during campus spring break, March 25. Fred Below, associate professor.

Northeastern Region. One course. For information, contact Office of Statewide Programming, 1010 Jorie Blvd., Ste. 200, Oak Brook, IL 60521, (708)990-0740.

PL PA 305, Principles of Plant Disease Control (Joliet). 3 hours or 3/4 unit. 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., Tuesdays, January 20 to April 7, 1998. One Sat-

urday class, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., to be arranged. Class will meet during campus spring break, March 24. Wayne Pedersen and Steve Ries, associate professors.

Central and North Central Region.

One course. For information, contact William Sutton, Office of Statewide Programming, 10606 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 62208, (618)398-7989.

CPSC 318, Crop Growth and Production (Springfield). 3 hours or 3/4 unit. 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., Tuesdays, January 20 to April 7, 1998. Class will meet on Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class will meet during campus spring break, March 24. Gary Pepper, associate professor.

Faye Lesht, Division of Extramural Programs, (217)333-3060, and Kevin Steffey, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

INSECTS

Regent 80WG: A Wise Insecticide Choice for Corn Rootworm Protection?

On November 14, 1997, Regent 80WG was approved by the EPA for use in field corn. This insecticide will

be a restricted-use product due to its toxicity to estuarine invertebrates and birds. We have received many questions from producers and dealers about its efficacy against corn rootworms. Many questions have been from producers in east-central Illinois who have been affected by western corn rootworm injury in first-year corn. In many instances, growers are looking for alternatives to granular soil insecticides applied conventionally through insecticide boxes on planters. How does Regent 80WG stack up when it comes to corn rootworm protection?

In 1996 and 1997, Regent 80WG did not perform well against corn rootworms in University of Illinois experimental trials at DeKalb, Monmouth, and Urbana (Table 1). Although many insecticides had less than optimal performances last season, the lack of root protection afforded by Regent was particularly acute. We believe that Regent 80WG is very susceptible to performance problems when densities of corn rootworm larvae result in root injury in the 4.0-or-greater range on the Iowa State root-rating scale. During the past 2 years, we have seen root pressure of this magnitude in many of our on-farm cooperators' fields throughout east-central Illinois. Bottom line—we believe that producers

who use Regent 80WG better hope for low to moderate rootworm densities in 1998. If we get another “rootworm season” like 1997, growers shouldn't expect too much from Regent 80WG when it comes to rootworm protection.

Regarding the performance of Regent 80WG against European corn borers, results from University of Illinois trials suggest this product does offer some protection against moderate levels of pressure. However, producers should consider carefully which insect pest most threatens the bottom line in 1998. There are rescue treatment options for European corn borers, but fewer satisfactory alternatives when it comes to rescue treatments for corn rootworms.

Mike Gray and Kevin Steffey, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

Corn Borer Densities, 1987–1996

Within in the past few weeks, many folks have asked us about the densities of European corn borer populations obtained from our annual fall surveys. As you know, we discontinued our annual survey this year for reasons expressed in a previous issue of this *Bulletin*. However, you might be interested in seeing corn borer densities during the past 10 years (Table 2). Years ago, we published a bar graph of corn borer densities from the first survey in 1943 through 1990, but we haven't updated the graph. Hopefully

Table 1. Root ratings (RR)¹ for Regent 80WG applied in furrow (microtubes) at 0.13 lb (AI)/acre at DeKalb, Monmouth, and Urbana, 1996 and 1997. Other insecticides listed were the “best” performers in respective trials.

1996					
DeKalb	RR	Monmouth	RR	Urbana	RR
Lorsban 15G	2.25	Counter 20CR	2.15	Fortress 5G	2.13
Regent 80WG	2.85	Regent 80WG	3.10	Regent 80WG	3.53
Check	4.15	Check	4.38	Regent 80WG + 10-34-0 (0.67 qt/A)	4.60
				Check	4.27
1997					
DeKalb	RR	Monmouth	RR	Urbana	RR
Fortress 5G	3.10	Aztec 4.7G	3.35	Counter 20CR	3.30
Regent 80WG	4.45	Regent 80WG	5.10	Regent 80WG	4.55
Check	4.68	Check	5.18	Check	5.70

¹Iowa State root-rating scale: 1—no visible damage or only a few minor feeding scars, 2—some roots with feeding scars but none eaten off to within 1.5 inches of the plant, 3—several roots eaten off to within 1.5 inches of the plant but never the equivalent of an entire node of roots destroyed, 4—one node of roots destroyed or the equivalent, 5—two nodes of roots destroyed or the equivalent, and 6—three or more nodes of roots destroyed.

Table 2. Results from fall surveys of European corn borer larvae, Illinois, 1987–1996.

Year	% plants infested	Avg. larvae per stalk
1987	78	1.55
1988	31	0.52
1989	78	3.48
1990	60	1.24
1991	91	3.30
1992	31	0.30
1993	50	1.10
1994	49	0.60
1995	65	1.30
1996	64	1.36

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Table 2 will help folks trying to document corn borer densities in Illinois. Remember, the densities represent statewide averages from densities in nine crop-reporting districts. Regional densities may differ significantly from statewide densities in any given year.

Kevin Steffey and Mike Gray, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652

New Publication About *Bt*-Corn and European Corn Borers

ACES Information Technology and Communication Services recently received a new publication, *Bt-Corn and European Corn Borer: Long-Term Success Through Resistance Management*. Editors are K.R. Ostlie (U. Minnesota), W.D. Hutchison (U. Minnesota), and R.L. Hellmich (USDA-ARS, Ames, Iowa); many entomologists the north-central states (including K. Steffey and M. Gray) and eastern

states were contributors. Publication NCR 602 is the result of a cooperative effort among research and extension entomologists of the North Central Regional Research Project NC-205.

This well-designed and informative publication offers an objective overview of management of European corn borers and the use of *Bt*-corn. It addresses both basics about *Bt* and *Bt*-corn and issues associated with the use of *Bt*-corn: efficacy of *Bt*-corn against corn borers and other insects; economics of using *Bt*-corn; potential for corn borers to develop resistance to *Bt*; resistance management tactics; and strategies for using *Bt*-corn.

To order, contact ACES/ITCS Product Sales and Distribution, 1401 Maryland, Urbana, IL 61801; (800)345-6087 or (217)3332007. The price is \$3.50.

Kevin Steffey and Mike Gray, Extension Entomology, (217)333-6652



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This newsletter is edited by Mary Overmier and formatted by Oneda VanDyke, ACES/ITCS.



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Preregistration Form
1998 Illinois Agricultural Pesticides Conference
UFAS 1-3-63895-0660

Conference dates: January 6, 7, and 8, 1998

Location: University of Illinois Ilini Union, Urbana, Illinois

Please mail completed preregistration form(s) or fax to (217)333-9561 by December 19, 1997.

Name _____

Company/business _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Telephone (business) _____

(home) _____

Method of payment:

_____ Check enclosed (make payable to the University of Illinois)

_____ I prefer to charge on credit card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Card no. _____ Expiration date _____

Signature of card holder _____

Preregistration: **\$75 per person** (includes one copy each of the 1998 Conference *Proceedings* and the 1998 *Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Handbook*). Walk-in registration fee is \$90.

Banquet: **\$40 per person**, not included in the cost of registration.

NOTE: If paying for more than one person, please enclose a completed preregistration form for each person (one check may be written to cover total payment).

Mail completed preregistration form(s) along with payment to

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Accounting Business Office
Administration Building Room 162
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Preregistration Form
1998 Illinois Crop Protection Workshop
UFAS 1-3-63864-0660

Conference dates: March 3 and 4, 1998

Location: Chancellor Hotel & Convention Center, Champaign, Illinois

Please mail completed preregistration form(s) by February 13, 1998, or fax to (217)333-9561.

Name _____

Company/business _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Telephone (business) _____

(home) _____

Method of payment:

_____ Check enclosed (make payable to the University of Illinois)

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_____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card no. _____ Expiration date _____

Signature of card holder _____

Preregistration: **\$125 per person** (provides a conference notebook and participation in two general sessions, seven specialized sessions, two lunches, and refreshment breaks). Walk-in registration fee is \$150.

NOTE: If paying for more than one person, please enclose a completed preregistration form for each person (one check may be written to cover total payment).

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