

CAPPY, JAMES J., DAVID A. LONG and KEVIN THORSNESS, Bayer CropScience, P.O. Box 12014, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. **Status of isophorone-free sugarbeet herbicide formulations.**

EPA has issued a data call-in to manufacturers for the solvent isophorone which may result in the mandatory removal of it from use in pesticides. Isophorone is a key component in widely used sugarbeet herbicides containing desmedipham and phenmedipham. In response to the data call-in Bayer CropScience has initiated an ongoing program to develop new isophorone-free formulations of Progress, Betamix and Betanex herbicides. The first isophorone-free formulations were developed and field tested in 2003 and 2004. The efficacy and crop tolerance of the new formulations were comparable to the currently marketed products. Manufacturing issues will prevent the introduction of the isophorone-free formulations in 2005. The issues surrounding development of new formulations for the sugarbeet market will be discussed. A new generation of isophorone-free formulations of Progress and Betamix is under development and scheduled for field testing this field season.