Weed control options for non-GMO cropping systems was a topic discussed by Dr. J.D. Green, University of Kentucky Extension weed scientist, recently. He also addressed other general weed management principles.

When selecting a weed control program we need to be sure it’s effective on the weed species that we’re trying to manage and control,” he said. "It is important that programs are fairly easy to use as well as they must be economically viable within the system that we’re managing those weed problems.

The level of management needed for effective weed control tends to be higher in a non-GMO program.Growers must make sure they’re paying attention to their specific weed problems and that sometimes means tank mixing two or more products together to get the broad spectrum of control that we have to come to expect with some of the GMO technologies.

"Typically, the most consistent weed control that we see is using a soil-applied herbicide followed by a post-emergence herbicide program," Green said. "Effective weed control programs result in optimum yields based on research throughout the years. This most consistent high-staging crops are obtained when we use a soil residual followed by a post-emergence program.

On the other side of the spectrum farmers must think about choosing between planting GMO seed because of weed resistance. Anytime we choose that we have an economically feasible, and viable weed control program,” he summed. "When selecting a weed control program we need to be sure it’s effective on the weed species that we’re trying to manage and control; he also urged farmers to avoid reliance on one weed control program to minimize weed resistance.

In summary, Green said an effective weed control program allows one to use different herbicides methods in action and maximize the potential for weed resistance to occur.”

“Using a soil residual herbicide allows one to use different herbicides methods in action and maximize the potential for weed resistance to occur.”

"I’m not so sure that in some crop fields where good weed control has been achieved for the last few years that a good soil residual herbicide program may be all that is needed. The weed weed bank has been reduced where weeds can be effectively managed with a soil residual herbicide treatment.”

There are a variety of different soil applied herbicides that can be used in soybeans. Whether it is something that targets broadleaf weeds or mostly grasses, several options are available. A group of other products are available for an over-the-top treatment later, if needed.

"As I mentioned earlier, we may need to tank mix some products together depending on what the specific weed problems are, but you certainly need to know your fields if you’re going to use that as your total focus for weed control.”

"When selecting a soil residual herbicide program we need to be sure it’s effective on the weed species that we’re trying to manage and control; he also urged farmers to avoid reliance on one weed control program to minimize weed resistance.”

"We should try to make herbicide applications as timely as we can since we want to ensure that we have an economically feasible, and viable weed control program,” he summed. 

In summary, Green said an effective weed control program is one that provides broad spectrum weed control. He also urged farmers to avoid reliance on one weed control program to minimize weed resistance. We should try to make herbicide applications as timely as we can since we want to ensure that we have an economically feasible, and viable weed control program.”