

## Corn from Seven Nations Flourishes On Hoffman Plots Near Landisville

(Continued from page 6)

labor is being eliminated. Detasseling once cost the United States \$105 million per year, now with cytoplasmic sterility that sum has been reduced tremendously.

add to that almost 00 per cent national use of hybrids.

"It's the same as capons or steers or mules. All our corn this year is being grown under the sterility (cytoplasmic) program. One sex produces no pollen, which was the prime purpose of the detasseling program. So today we have a "mule corn", a top cross hybrid.

Plants discovered producing no pollen were back crossed to fertile corn plants, the same as capons or steers. Taking a single cross (female), back crossing it one year, then producing a sterile single cross you do not have to detassel, Mr. Hug continued. Pollen production is cut. Energy that would be spent in those processes, foods that would be producing pollen, are now diverted into grain growth.

That's cytoplasmic sterility.

There's more a reason for this process. It's an economic matter. Labor is scarce, or high priced, and it has been found detasseling must be done in the rain to produce best results. Consequently, only about one-third of the crop this year will be manually detasseled.

Corn this year is competitive, definitely, Mr. Hug said, with an Aug. 11 forecast of 3,143,000,000 bu., down about 32 million from July, and above the 10-year average of 3,084,000,000 "Corn is better rooted than most think," he added, allaying prospects that winds could topple the crop in no time at all. Pennsylvania normally produces 52 bushels per acre, Lancaster County 55 to 59. This year — 1956 — will be one of the three heaviest crops locally, referring to 1956, 1952 and 1938.

Hybrid seed corns, and detasseling gained much ground in the past 30 years, and in the last five to eight years reached its peak. Now with the day of the sterile single cross — separation of plants into male and female — you do not have to detassel.

In the past five or six years, there has been an extreme high interest in high fertility. "What population of corn plants will a piece of land support?"

"We plow under 1,000 lbs of 10-10-10 per acre while preparing ground for corn, and during

planting, we add an additional 400 pounds," Mr. Hug explained.

Corn plots are not sprayed, because the firm wants to inspect damage insects can cause. This year there has been some borer activity in the Landisville plots, nothing serious; a little corn has toppled, but a very small amount.

"Consider also that it takes 50 gallons of water to produce a bushel of corn," he added.

There are 206 varieties of corn on the Hoffman plots, with heavy emphasis on Funk G hybrids, of course, corn that here is outproducing the Corn Belt! Some of the oddities were planted for the interest they arouse, and you'll see purple leaves, purple husks hiding yellow corn! There's popcorn, flint — and with the flour corn, a contrast between soft and flint is offered. The midget corn grows with normal size ear, yet plants are but hip high. There are Brachytic plants, with normal leaves, telescoped nodes that bring the ear closed to the ground.

Maturing dates vary widely too, and here is rowing corn that can produce excellent crops in the chill of northern Maine and Wisconsin, corn corn that will produce in the tropics. G-2 has been planted as far north as Presque Isle, Maine. Ten different maturing dates are to be found now; some corn is just tasseling, some just silking, some in milk stage, some now denting, some ready for harvest.

But the pride of all Funk is in Mississippi, where the national production record of 304-plus bushels per acre is held by a youngster. It's part of the program — in which Lancaster County and Hoffman Seed has a large role — where the maximum number of plants per acre is sought to produce the most Corn — of the best quality.

## Frost Threat Scares County

(Continued from page one)

Following the rain, temperatures turned much cooler, bringing to Lancaster County record breaking lows for this early in the fall. In Lancaster Monday morning, it was 46 degrees, at the Water Works 37, and in the 30s in other parts of the Garden Spot, Bernard S. White of the Weather Bureau office in Lancaster advises. Safe Harbor

## Tall Corn from Mexico



Thriving in Lancaster County land is this corn from Mexico, towering almost 20 feet in the air. It's on plots leased by the Hoffman Seed Co. With the tall "grass" is M. T. (Pod) Kauffman, assistant in the hybrid corn department (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

had a low of 47, and there was some light scattered frost.

Saturday through Monday was quite cool, with a warming trend that took temperatures up to 72 degrees Tuesday. Fair, sunny weather prevailed with mild temperatures, but in the five-day outlook there is a chance of some cooler weather today, showers likely. It may be warmer Sunday, and there may be some scattered showers again Sunday, with total precipitation rather light.

In August, a total of 362 inches of rain was recorded officially in Lancaster County against a normal 430. However, for the year to date total precipitation has been close to normal, perhaps an inch and a half above normal. By now, approximately 32 inches of rain has fallen since Jan. 1, against a normal of 30. Normal for the year is 40 to 41 inches.

It is hard not to buy more than you can pay for, but then there is always the chance you will die tomorrow.

Lancaster Farming—7  
Friday Sept. 14, 1956

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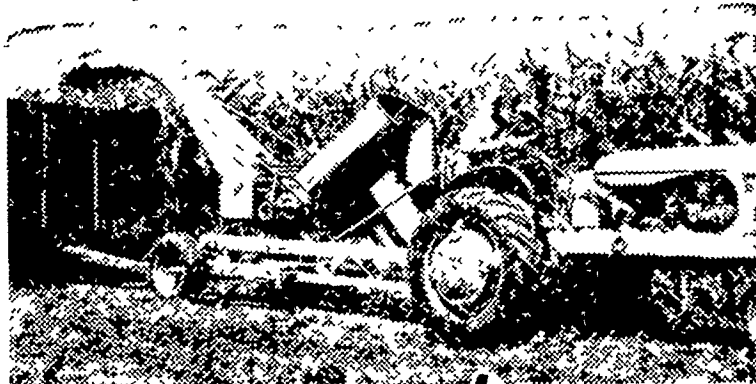


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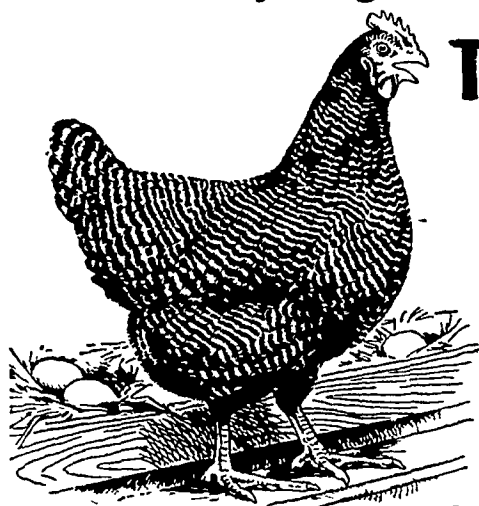
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