

Look at Corn Ears May Reveal Soil Weakness

The time corn growers spend examining their crop may reveal a lot of secrets that could be worth many dollars in future years, says Marshall Christy, University of Missouri extension soils specialist.

Many factors must operate in harmony to produce a good corn crop, he points out, and some one factor may be limiting yields and income. Correcting the limiting factor will likely mean more profitable yields and a higher interest return on the money invested in corn production.

Ears can point out a great deal about the fertility of soils and the kind of nutrition plants were able to get. The ears are the final evidence of the kind of food supply they plants had throughout the growing season. They reflect whether the food supply was adequate or limited in some respect, Christy notes.

Frequent observations throughout the growing season, including tissue tests, as well as the final yield and quality of the crop can provide a great deal of useful information about soil fertility. This information, along with soil tests, is the most useful guide for 1959 soil treatments to correct fertility conditions that act as a barrier to better quality and yields.

In any diagnosis, the soils specialist suggests that corn growers try to examine stalks, leaves, and roots as well as ears. Insect and disease damage might be responsible for some of the apparent nu-

trition deficiencies.

And, severe limitations of one nutrient may result in multiple deficiency symptoms showing up. For example, phosphorous or nitrogen deficiencies may be caused by a "poor" lime situation of the soil.

So don't jump at conclusions too fast but rather look at all the angles, he says.

A lack of nitrogen causes ears to form that are small and sharply pinched off on the tip as pollinated kernels fail to fill. Filled kernels have good luster and polish.

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient all through the growing season. However, it's needed in far greater amounts during the last half of the growth period and is especially useful when silking and tasseling starts.

Limited nitrogen causes firming, yellowing, starting at the leaf tips and proceeding along the midribs of the leaves. First leaves are the oldest ones on the lower part of the corn stalk.

Phosphorous shortages interfere with pollination. Ears are small and are often twisted with part or entire rows of kernels missing. Rows of kernels are often crooked and the tips of ears aren't usually filled.

Purplish-tinted leaves and stalks may be an indication of phosphorous limitations in young corn plants although some varieties have this color characteristic. A small, weak, spindly stalk that

produced a small twisted ear, or no ear at all, is the most typical symptom. Reddish leaves at or near maturity isn't a symptom of phosphorous deficiency.

Potassium starvation results in chaffy-like nubbins with dull colored kernels. Tips of ear don't fill and kernels are loose on the cob.

When split, the nodes of the stalk are often discolored and dark brown when potassium isn't available in sufficient quantities through the growth period. Potas-

sium deficiency is indicated by corn leaves that fire and turn brown along the edges starting at the tip.

If most of the ears in a field are exceedingly large, yields could likely be improved by using a thicker planting rate. On the other hand, if most ears are too small, it's an indication of limited fertility, limited moisture, or of a too thick stand, Christy notes.

Remember, many factors are involved during the growing sea-

Lancaster Farming, Friday, November 7, 1958—11

son that will affect the yield and quality of a corn crop, the Missouri extension worker continues. A diagnosis of many of the nutritional limitations can be made through observation, tissue test, and soil tests.

These are steps that can be taken to strengthen soil improvement programs. The pay off comes with more profitable operations and greater satisfaction to good yields of high quality year after year, Christy points out.

Ten Points For Stock Winter Care

A 10 point program for "wintering" livestock was recommended to farmers today by the American Foundation for Animal Health.

Highlights of the plan, designed to provide better winter health and production are:

1 — Check sanitation and ventilation facilities of hog and poultry houses to guard against pneumonia and other respiratory diseases.

2 — Exercise caution in allowing cattle into drouth-stricken fields of corn Sudan grass or cane, since poisonings may result.

3 — Have ewes treated for internal parasites before the fall breeding season.

4 — Examine cattle on pasture for lice, ring worm, warts and lumpy jaw, and have affected animals treated before winter con-

finement.

5 — Set up a workable mastitis program for dairy herds before winter confinement season.

6 — Isolate newly arrived feeder cattle and feeder lambs for a reasonable period before allowing them to run with the home herds and flocks.

7 — Have all fall pigs properly vaccinated against hog cholera and against erysipelas, in areas where the disease has been a problem. The veterinarian will know when this should or should not be done.

8 — Rid farm buildings of rats and mice.

9 — Continue or complete cooperative area control efforts against brucellosis.

10 — Avoid feeding hay, silage or feed grains which have a high mold content.

Roy J. Greider Returned To Farm Group Post

J Roy Greider, Mt Joy RD 1, was reelected president of Lancaster County Farmers Assn recently as the local affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation, held a reorganization meeting.

Greider will be serving his second successive term, while Clyde Wivell, Columbia RD 2, 1958 vice president, was replaced by Frank Aument, Holtwood RD 1, and Donald Nev, Marietta RD 1, replaced A Milton Ranck, New Providence as secretary-treasurer.

GREIDER

- ★ Super Cross Leghorns
- ★ Shaver Star Cross 288 Leghorns
- ★ Vantress Arbor Acre Broiler Chicks

Broiler Chicks Still Available in December

Greider Leghorn Farms, Inc.

Phone OL 3-2455, Mt. Joy, Pa.

Mr. Poultryman!



I prefer...

FLORIN FEEDS

For High Quality Eggs and Maximum Production

Call Mt. Joy OL 3-2411 Today!

WOLGEMUTH BROS., INC.

FLORIN, PA.

GET THE FACTS ON
H&N
"Nick-Chick"
LEGHORNS
Free!!!



Latest information, literature, availability list and prices on famous H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns. For your free copies write:

Florin Farms Inc.

Mt. Joy Pa. RFD #1
Phone. Oldfield 3-9891



Save TIME and LABOR!

With CALORIZED ALL-MASH LAYER you feed 20 per cent less feed! That's 20 per cent less feed to handle! And that's why you'll make important savings in time and labor with CALORIZED ALL-MASH LAYER! Order today!



HEMPFIELD MILLS

East Petersburg
Ph. Landisville
TW 8-3031

EVERY SIRE - EVERY DAY!

Means Scientific Dairy Herd Improvement By

BREEDING TO THE BULL OF YOUR CHOICE



GUERNSEY

SG34—Wyno Beau's LEGEND
SG41—Sterlinggold Lauxmont KING
SG44—Foremost J. C's NERO
SG45—LOCUST GROVE Strongheart
SG48—McDonald Farms B.B. Narrator
SG49—B. H. H. Valor's MAJESTY
SG51—McDonald Farms FRENUGGET

HOLSTEIN

SH25—Spofford Rag Apple Admiral
SH32—Penstate LUCIFER STAR
SH37—Penstate STAR EMPEROR
SH45—Hedge Acreston DeORMSBY
SH46—Mapleblend DEAN King Posch
SH49—Wimario Pabst REGAL Lucifer
SH50—Osborndale Sir TY VIC FOBES
SH52—Aldernhurst DELLA Lucifer
SH53—Yangdonhurst Ormsby Burke Lad
SH54—Osborndale IVANHOE

JERSEY

SJ19—Tristram Sparkling Challenger
SJ22—Welcome Siegfried STORM
SJ24—Lilac Remus Unrivaled Owl Gano

ELIMINATE THE GAMBLE THRU

- Proven Selection of Sires
- Popular Blood Lines Providing Line Breeding
- Safety—No hazardous bull on the farm
- Convenience—Just pick up the phone
- Economy—Our Same Low \$5 Service Fee

AYRSHIRE

SA18—Penbuck Dixie PREFERRED
SA20—Strathglass TRUSTY
SA22—Neshaminy TRADER PO

Southeastern Penna. Artificial Breeding Cooperative

P. O. BOX 254, LANCASTER, PA.

PHONE EXpress 2-2191