

## Wheeltrack Corn Plots Planted By Manheim FFA



COMPARING THE DIFFERENCES in cultural practices in this experimental plot of corn at the Manheim Central High School, shows Joseph McGahen, teacher of vocational agriculture, that cultivation and fine seedbed preparation have made very little difference in the size of the corn or the incidence of weeds. Rough soil in the foreground shows that the corn was planted right behind the plow without working the soil down. To the right of McGahen, soil was disced several times and worked down with the cultipacker before planting. The corn has been cultivated once. The wheel track planted plots do have some weeds, but McGahen believes the corn has enough head start to crowd most of them out.

Farmers in the Manheim area will have a chance to observe at first hand the differences in cultural practices in the corn belt.

Students at Manheim Central high school under the guidance of Joseph McGahen, teacher of vocational agriculture have set up demonstration plots on the ground adjacent to the vocational agriculture shops at the rear of the high school buildings.

The purpose of the plots is to show the results of three different cultural practices on the growth of corn.

Using one variety of hybrid and one fertilization program, the plots will test the value of planting in the tractor wheel track versus complete cultivation of the seedbed and cultivation of the corn after it is up and growing. All plots were planted on the same day.

All the plots received the same treatment before plowing. Super phosphate at the rate of 525 pounds per acre and 200 pounds of Ammonium Nitrate per acre was spread on the plots before plowing began. In the first of three plots the corn was planted in the plowed field without working the soil down at all after the plow. In the second of the plots, the disc was brought in and taken over the field only once to smooth out the seedbed slightly. In the check plot a normal Lancaster County program of three discings and once over with the cultipacker was used.

An application of 200 lbs of 5-10-10 commercial fertilizer was put beside the row in each plot at planting. All three plots were sprayed with atrazine at planting time. (Turn to page 9)

L. F. Photo

### GRASS IN SHADE

Creeping red fescue, Chewing's fescue, *Poa trivialis*, and Kentucky 31 fescue are the most shade-tolerant grasses, report Jack Harper, Penn State extension turf specialist.

The greatest number of accidents involving tractor tipovers occur in level land. Excessive speed, unevenly adjusted brakes and ditch banks are more dangerous than steep hills.

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