

Silage Corn Can Be Thicker

The best corn for silage generally will be a hybrid that is one group later in maturity than the hybrid normally planted for grain, re-ported by Walter I. Thomas and George W. Groshine, corn breeders-for the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Thomas says this means that late season hybrids will do best for silage and produce the most feeding values. Hybrids have been tested at various populations and under varied Pennsylvania conditions by

John B. Washko and John W. Bratzler, researchers in agronomy and animal nutrition at Penn State.

Their studies show that corn grown for silage will do best when seeded at rates of 2,000 to 6,000 more plants per acre than corn planted for grain under the same soil conditions.

Lodging or stalk breakage

can be a problem when silage corn is seeded much beyond the 2,000 to 6,000 additional plants per acre.

Tests indicate that the hard dough stage is the best time for cutting silage. Harvested earlier than hard dough, silage corn has too much moisture for best storage and feeding value. Later than hard dough, it is too dry for successful storage.

Dr. Bratzler has found that high sugar corn is no better in Central Pennsylvania than adapted, recommended hybrids.

To feed a population of 230 million (as predicted for 1975), farmers and ranchers must produce: 163 billion pounds more red meat; 47 billion pounds more milk; 20.7 million tons more fruit and vegetables; 20 billion more eggs.

The average income per capita of farm population in 1959 was \$965; per capita income of nonfarm people was \$2,216.

State Plans Sheep Scabies Control Program

Harrisburg, June 9th — Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture William L. Hennig today outlined the steps a farmer should take if he suspects his sheep flock is infected with sheep scab (scabies).

Sheep scab, also called scabies, is caused by the scab mite, a small external parasite. The mite eats away the surface of the skin of the sheep, causing the wool to fall off in patches. Eventually the exposed skin of the sheep becomes hard and encrusted from the action of the mites.

Because of the constant irritation, the sheep become nervous and present a rundown appearance.

Normally, the mites are found in greatest numbers on the back and sides of a sheep, although they are found in the ears, on the underside of the body, and on the legs. The mites cannot be seen with the naked eye.

If such a condition exists in a farm sheep flock, the flock owner should contact the nearest office of the Pa. Department of Agriculture immediately.

In the Lancaster area growers should contact Dr. David S. Ingram, Union Stock Yards, Lancaster.

The veterinarian in charge at the office will arrange for the flock to be inspected for the presence of sheep scab. If scabies is found, he will arrange for the flock to be dipped to kill and prevent the spread of the mites.

Farmers may, of course, dip their own sheep or may have the flock dipped by a custom operator. Presently the federal government has approved the use of Lindane, Toxaphene, lime-sulphur and nicotine dips for sheep to enter interstate commerce. Specifications on the strength of these dipping solutions may be obtained from Bureau of Animal Industry offices or from the Animal Disease Eradication Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, South Office Building, Harrisburg.

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