

Slow Down When Planting, Corn Expert Panel Says

A panel of corn growing experts agreed Monday that one of the factors most seriously limiting corn yields in Lancaster County is excessive speed at planting time.

Speaking at a review meeting of the 1962 corn growing contest sponsored by the New Holland Young Farmers Association in the agriculture room of Garden Spot High School, Glen Yoder, crop specialist from the Harrisburg office of the Penna. Farm Bureau advised the young farmers to drive no faster than four miles per hour with the corn planter.

His suggestion was backed up by the other members of the panel. Floyd Imes, seed division of Lancaster County Farm Bureau Cooperative, Manheim, Harold Mengle, seed division of the York-Lancaster district of Eastern States Farmers Exchange, Vernon Frankhouser, from the New Holland branch of Eastern States, and Willis Rohrer of the P. L. Rohrer and Brother seed company in Smoketown.

The committee was also in agreement that before long the use of soil insecticides will be as common a practice as the use of insecticides on forage crops now.

Both these practices will help to increase the plant population in a corn field which the panel thought was lagging behind research proof of higher yields with higher population.

Citing examples of low yields on low plant populations in the New Holland contest the experts said they

thought most county farmers could plant corn thicker and increase yields.

In answer to a question, Mengle said he thought 15,000 plants per acre is too high as a general recommendation, but that there are certain varieties that could be planted that thick. He said 22,000 stalks per acre is not too high for silage corn.

In making a recommendation for silage varieties, Mengle said that generally the best husking corn on a certain farm would also be the best variety to plant for silage.

A young farmer asked if single crosses are a "coming thing" or if they have been proved out of date. Rohrer said that a farmer can expect a little better yield from single crosses if conditions are favorable but under adverse conditions, the normal 4-way hybrid will probably

outyield the single cross.

Mengle concurred, and said the single crosses have shown up very well in instances, but their behavior is very erratic. "They can not tolerate a wide variation in conditions," he said.

The panel agreed that good yields can be maintained in a continuous corn system if plant food is returned to the soil. "You will probably need twice the lime on continuous corn that you would use in a rotation system," Yoder said.

The committee suggested that farmers use a combination of hybrid numbers and not "put all your eggs in one basket." Imes suggested that the following factors be considered when choosing a variety: maturity date (he suggested, the longest season corn that would mature would probably give the highest yields), yield potential, stalk and root strength, disease and insect resistance, population tolerance, standability, and method of harvest.

Winner of the corn growing contest was Roy Mentzer, New Holland R2, who produced 134.62 bushels per acre with DeKalb 640. Mentzer plowed down six tons of beef manure on a one year old

clover sod and added 400 pounds of 16-48-0 fertilizer. The average ear weight was .48 pound and moisture at harvest time was 30.21 per cent. His cost of production was \$67 per bushel.

Other high fields were made by the following: Mervin Weiler, 129.59 bu.; Mark Yoder, 120.96 bu.; Victor Glick, 120.34 bu.; Carl Weaver, 116.18 bu. There were 20 members in the contest supervised by R. Gene Daugherty, teacher of vocational agriculture.

Soil Conservation

(Continued from Page 1) public officials that farmers who irrigate have been partly responsible for the lower water flow rate in county streams.

The board of soil conservationists called on farmers to "vigorously protect the right to use unlimited surface water for irrigation."

Directors pointed out that farmers who use conservation practices on their farms retain more moisture which generally reduces the amount of irrigation needed.

A meeting is planned for April when township supervi-

sors will be invited to meet with the directors of the district. Amos Funk, chairman of the board said, "We believe we can show the supervisors how they can save money on road maintenance by encouraging more farmers to install conservation plans on their farms." Final details of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

The district also authorized Millersville State College's industrial arts department to produce a portable model farm showing proper soil and water conservation methods for educational purposes.

Thirteen tree species seedlings are now available from the Pennsylvania Game Commission for planting by conservation groups. They may be ordered from the commission's Reading office until Feb. 15.

Directors approved four new farmer-cooperators requesting free conservation plans for their farms. They were:

Mervin L. Landis, 2475 Oregon Pk., 70 acres; Phares S. Hurst, Narvon R1, 50 acres; Jacob S. Burkholder, Denver R2, 100 acres, and Eli W. Martin, New Holland

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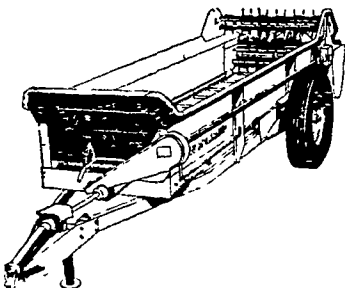
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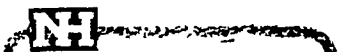
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