

Research On Narrow Corn Rows Show Promise; Not Whole Answer

Narrow corn rows aren't the whole story, but they do show promise of pushing corn yields a little higher. Narrow rows were tested at several locations during the long, hot, dry summer of 1966. The results were similar to those reported in other areas, according to Dr. William Mitchell, extension agronomist at the University of Delaware.

Row widths, plant population and corn hybrids are all closely related. A change in population or hybrid brings about a change in response to row widths.

For example, one hybrid produced 66 bushels per acre with 16,000 plants in 40-inch rows. The same hybrid produced 46 bushels per acre with 20,000 plants and 38 bushels with 24,000 plants, all in 40-inch rows.

Under the same change in population conditions, with the same row width, another hybrid produced 68 bushels with 16,000 plants, 66 with 20,000 and 69 with 24,000. Obviously, one hybrid fell off badly as the population was increased while the other changed its production very little.

When row widths were changed to 30 inch, the first hybrid produced 81, 87 and 65 bushels per acre with the same population variation. The second hybrid produced 89, 87

and 81 bushels per acre under the same population conditions.

Narrow rows, in themselves, are not the answer, according to Mitchell. However, combined with the right plant population and hybrid variety, they can give a real boost to corn yields, Mitchell believes.

Delaware tests were conducted under record drought conditions, yet highly significant increases in production were obtained with the right hybrid-population-row width combination.

Mitchell adds that farmers considering 30-inch rows should not overlook the full season hybrids. In Delaware tests, he says, they responded to narrow rows and high populations even better than short, early maturing hybrids.

PENB Launches National Egg Month Campaign

As National Egg Month gets underway in January, George A. Rabinoff, National Chairman for the campaign, urged all segments of the industry to "join forces in a mighty effort to boost sales of eggs."

Rabinoff, president of Dairy Fresh Products Company, Los Angeles, appealed to the whole egg industry to get behind the promotion, and cited the program already launched by the Poultry and Egg National Board.

"PENB is cooperating with state and regional organizations on many fronts. A new egg-mobile has been made available for use in stores in all areas cooperating with this promotion. Photo recipe releases featuring omelets for all occasions have been sent to newspaper food editors throughout the country, representing a net circulation of 102 million," he said. He is chairman of the PENB promotion program committee.

Rabinoff pointed out that January Egg Month leads into PENB's Winter Promotion Program, which is stressing eggs for omelets for every occasion. A consumer information and education program is being started that will reach 500 radio stations with weekly transcripts. A newspaper food page column for 1,000 weeks will be on its way in January for use in March.

"Let us all get behind this promotion, education, merchandising and public relations program. Sure, the industry will produce more eggs in 1967 than in 1966, continuing a trend of many years. But in 1967, there might well be more eggs consumed per capita than in 1966. There will be no alarm for the industry. And, the consumer will be happy. Let's make January usher in the best year yet for the egg industry," Rabinoff said.

Jo Lynn Boykin, of Jackson, Mississippi, is the 1967 Miss National Egg Month. Across the country, special events, such as egg breakfasts, governors' proclamations, and egg displays have been planned. One of these is the National Egg Month Luncheon on January 10 in Chicago, being put on in cooperation with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Illinois Poultry Industry Council, and PENB.

Area Dairymen Named Progressive Breeders

Two Lancaster County Holstein breeders have qualified for the Progressive Breeders' Award, the Holstein-Friesian Association of America announced this week.

John E. Kreider, 523 Willow Rd., Lancaster, received the award for the fifth time, while Robert H. Kauffman, Elizabethtown R1, earned the honor for the first time.

According to the association, this is the highest recognition obtainable to a breeder of registered Holstein cattle. It has been accorded to only 653 breeders, including 73 in Pennsylvania.

To qualify for the Progressive Breeders' Award, a dairy herd must meet strict requirements in all phases of dairy cattle breeding and management, including production, type improvement, herd health and the development of homebred animals.

To fight for the right, you must know first what is right.

Mats, Sawdust Seen Effective Cow Bedding

Rubber mats and sawdust make a good combination in bedding dairy cows, trials have found at the Dairy Production Center of Penn State University. It was observed that rubber mats can reduce by three tons the amount of sawdust needed for bedding a dairy cow over a seven-month period in adequately sized stalls.

When used with the mats, only 12 pounds of sawdust were needed daily per stall in the trials, says W. Homer Cloninger, researcher in charge of the herds for the Agricultural Experiment Station. When sawdust was used alone, about 41 pounds were needed daily for each stall, he claims.

The rubber mats were tested alone without the sawdust for eight weeks in the Spring and six weeks in the Fall. The cows were stabled by manure, but were not injured. To reduce the staining, one shovel

of sawdust was used per stall daily. About half of this was placed on the back half of the mat and the rest in the gutter. This amount of sawdust reduced manure stains considerably.

Cloninger says 10 cows used the rubber mat-sawdust bedding for four years. An additional 70 cows have been on mats for 18 months. Stalls were wide enough and long enough where the animals were bedded, he reports. He questions, however, whether rubber mats would reduce injuries caused by stalls that are too narrow or too short, or both.

After four year's use, the mats were still in very good condition. They showed only slight signs of wear, Cloninger states. A cost comparison will be made between the rubber mats and the sawdust after 10 years, the length of guarantee on the mats. The latter are five-eighths inches thick and retail for about \$33 each.

The tests are part of a broad program of research directed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

● Holstein Assn.

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Inc. as a fieldman-sales representative

Following an orientation and training period, Blodgett's appointment to the Holstein staff became effective December 1. While a student at Delaware Valley College, Blodgett was an officer of the Dairy Society and chairman of the school's Agricultural Day program. He also played varsity football during four seasons. As an undergraduate he competed in intercollegiate dairy judging contests as a member of the Delaware Valley team.


Roy L. Simpson becomes a full time classifier following a year's service in parttime capacity.

Simpson has extensive dairy farm management experience and has participated in dairy cattle judging activities for several years. Prior to his full-time appointment, he underwent field training and gained practical experience in the conduct of type classification programs.

A graduate of Cornell University, Simpson was a member of the dairy cattle judging team. Other undergraduate activities included assistant chairmanship of the student livestock show and work as a student employee at the Cornell dairy barn. His dairy project work earned Simpson a membership on the New York state 4-H judging team and he later became state champion Holstein boy. He has been on the New York PDCA judges list since 1959.

Simpson was formerly engaged in dairy farm operation and was a local farm store manager for Agway, Inc.

The Holstein Association's type classification field staff now numbers 11 men. The increase in the classifiers reflects the growth and popularity of this service and the additional work force needed to conduct the improved program. In 1967, the Association will inaugurate its Descriptive Type Classification program to furnish breeders and herd owners with more complete information about their cattle's physical traits and characteristics.



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