

FIRST HATCH of Babcock B-300 chicks arriving at Babcock, Inc.'s new hatchery at Lititz R2. Shown taking off the hatch are (from right to left) around the table are: Ernie Blow, hatchery manager; Bob Keener, assistant hatchery manager; Ethyl Summers; and Betty Beiler.

Narrow Row Corn Only For Top Producers

Unless you are aiming for top yields, narrow row planting probably won't help your per-acre average very much.

Two years of tests, says a University of Maryland agronomist, show that "superiority for narrow rows is dependent upon yield levels — well over 100 bushels per acre."

Dr R G Rothgeb set out to compare three row widths (20, 30 and 40 inches) and two plant population rates (15,680 and 24,120 seeds per acre)—all with and without supplemental irrigation.

Rothgeb laid out eight blocks—four to be watered and four to get only natural rainfall. Each of these blocks was subdivided into six plots so that he could check all row widths and population rates. All the plots were limed and fertilized uniformly so that differences in yield could not be caused by varying plant food levels.

Because both the 1965 and

1966 growing seasons were dry, all the irrigated plots yielded higher than the corresponding un-irrigated plots.

In 1965, Rothgeb said, the higher plant populations on the non-irrigated plots outyielded the lower plant populations by about 16 bushels per acre. However, during the more droughty 1966 season, the lower plant populations had a slight yield edge. In the irrigated plots, the higher populations produced "significantly higher" yields than the low population plots both in 1965 and 1966.

During the 1966 season, row width seemed to make very little difference in yield because moisture was the limiting factor. But on the basis of the two-year test period, it appears that yield superiority for narrow rows depends upon high yield levels—well above 100 bushels per acre, Rothgeb concludes.

The world is too full of people explaining things they do not understand.

Babcock Hatchery Reports Expansion

Babcock Hatchery, Inc., located at Lititz R2, has recently completed construction of its new hatchery which includes hatching egg processing and holding facilities, according to an announcement this week by general manager Russell A. Mease.

Founded in 1957 by Bruce M. Babcock, Babcock Hatchery, Inc., had previously used a rented building for its busi-

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(Continued from Page 13) summer potatoes last year, from the 35,600 acres producing fall potatoes.

The new plant, one mile west of Lititz, is now operating at full capacity of 56,000 pullet chicks a week, Mease said.

Babcock Hatchery distributes Babcock B-300 chicks and started pullets in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.

Market needs for food potatoes are expected to hold at high levels during 1967-68, according to C&MS officials. Demand for potatoes by manufacturers of processed potato products will continue to increase, especially for the manufacture of frozen and dehydrated potatoes and chips. Sales of fresh potatoes for table use, which accounts for more than half the total quantity of potatoes used for food, will continue to be substantial.

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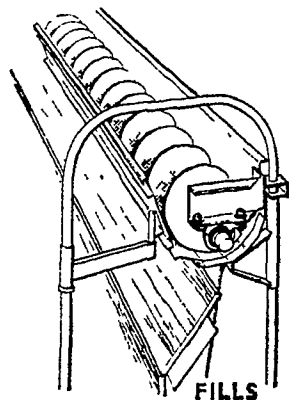


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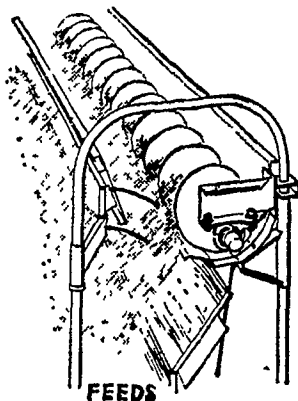
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