

● **Crops & Soils**
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win a contest not trying to make the most profit

Other figures given were total cost per acre from \$78 to \$196 and labor and management returns from \$94 to \$191 "These figures don't tell you much about yourself in your own operation" he said "The major expenses are not the same for each farmer."

In figuring costs, Cooper listed fixed costs such as land, labor and management and equipment overhead (depreciation, interest housing and insurance) He also said you must also consider variable costs such as seed, lime, fertilizer, sprays, repairs, fuel, lube and custom work

"Generally the low yields make the highest cost per ton," he said, "but not always Neither does the highest bushel per acre yield produce the highest cost corn" Cooper recommended farmers to get the valuable information needed to figure their own production costs

On another subject during the day-long program, Joe McGahen, extension agronomist, said, "I would look at a new hybrid for a year or two before I went 'hog-wild' on it See if it has good standability and note how it matures"

Speaking on the subject, "Where Are We Headed in Corn Growing?", McGahen said, "The major problem in corn production is to get a hybrid that will stand and grow to maturity"

On minimum tillage, the specialist said, every trip across the field costs money "Probably the best type of seed bed would be plowed ground leveled off a little," he said. "Which way you go is up to you Even zero tillage works well if done right. Just think in dollars and cents You can kill sod with chemicals but I can kill it cheaper with a plow."

"The basis of a fertilizer program is a soil test," McGahen said "It's foolish to apply a fertilizer item if you don't need it The old idea of going by a "rule-of-thumb" is old-fashioned"

The agronomist said, "There is no question we can improve yields with narrow row spacing How narrow is a machinery problem To sacrifice a good price of equipment to go to narrow rows is not good"

"If you go to narrow rows, you must also go to higher corn populations I don't like to go beyond 24,000 plants per acre for grain," McGahen said "I feel farmers may get carried away and plant population way over the land productivity Eight to nine inches apart in the rows seems to be the best spacing for good yields"

Other speakers and subjects included George Beiggien, extension agronomist, "Weed Control, 1969 Style", C R Studholme, state supervisor of Wild Life Services, "Nuisance Birds" (controlling them now and in the future) and Robert Tetrault, extension entomologist, "Farm Crop Insect Control For 1969"

Arnold G Lueck, associate county agent, was in charge of the program

Mulch Strawberry Plants Soon

Extension pomologists at The Pennsylvania State University recommend placing about three inches of clean straw, hay, or other mulch over the entire strawberry bed. If you don't have enough material to cover the entire bed, just mulch the rows well and leave the spaces between the rows uncovered.

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