

Jersey Farmer Claims \$75 an Acre on Corn

Those who wonder if New Jersey will ever become an important notch in the nation's corn belt should talk to John R. Everett, Somerville.

He's the state corn growing champion, one of 27 state champions for non-irrigated production announced recently by the National Corn Growers Association.

Everett, who has now won the state championship two years in a row, is doing his part to make corn a major crop in New Jersey.

His championship yield last year was 142.41 bushels per acre, the year before it was 123.3 bushels per acre. But the competition keeps prodding Everett to higher production. Second place in New Jersey went to Donald Simpkins, Trenton, with 121.41 bushels per acre, and third to Ernest Kuster, Jr., Ringoes, with 113.61. Everett's championship yield causes a natural reaction among other growers.

"How he'd do it?"

There are no secrets. Everett happily passes along production tips to others who are looking for higher yields and more profitable corn crops.

Everett runs a 160-head dairy operation, with 96 cows milking, just outside of Somerville, located about 30 miles north of Trenton.

He competed with 545 growers from 36 states in the annual corn growing contest. Official contest fields must be at least 25 acres. Everett normally raises about 225 acres of corn in his total operation of about 600 acres.

Everett keeps working to improve his corn production from year to year. But the basic ingredients are always the same — good soil fertility, careful management and outstanding hybrid seed.

"We really like the single-cross hybrid PX 50. It seemed to be so vigorous. It was green and growing all the time — really healthy plants. We had a tough season that was pretty hard on a lot of the corn around here, but our corn turned out pretty well. There was a period of three to four weeks of daily rain which seemed to hurt the pollination. And there was also a bad dry spell right after planting."

Everett starts his careful management with the preparation of the fields.

"We try to go over the field as few times as possible. Last year we plowed, then harrowed once with a row harrow and once with a straight-tooth. We used a four-row planter with 38-inch rows for the corn crop. We aimed for a population of 23,000 to 24,000 plants per acre at planting time. And with the good standability of PX 50 we had almost that population at harvest time."

Everett's corn planting was completed May 17. He had previously plowed down a substantial application of fertilizer.

"I plowed down about 180 pounds of nitrogen, 90 pounds of phosphorus and 150 pounds of potash per acre. Then we added an application of 20-40-20 at planting time."

He used two pounds of atrazine per acre, plus one cultivation, for weed control. And, since root-worm problems began to show up last year, he's considering the use of an insecticide this year.

Everett combined his corn around the middle of October.

Everett tries to keep a check on the profitability of his corn crop. He estimates his total cost of production at about \$80 per acre.

"My total operation of 225 acres averaged just over 110 bushels per acre," he says. "We're selling right now for about \$1.45 per bushel — which means we're making about \$75 per acre."

Can others do the same?

Everett figures they can — with a combination of good seed, high soil fertility and careful management. And, with profit figures like that, he also predicts that more and more growers will add corn to their operations and put New Jersey on the map as a "corn belt state."



William Gretzinger (left), Fall River, Wis., won first place in the National Corn Growers Contest in 1969 with a yield of

238.42 bushels per acre. John R. Everett (right), Somerville, N. J., was first in his state with a yield of 142.41 bushels.

Fulton Grange to Celebrate Dairy Month With Ice Cream

Richard Holloway, Master of Fulton Grange 66, presided at the regular meeting May 25 at Oakryn when third and fourth degrees were conferred upon six candidates.

Plans were made to make 92 quarts of ice cream at the next regular meeting June 8, in observance of June Dairy Month. The committee to make the mix is Mrs. Chester Todd Jr., Mrs. Gyles Brown and Mrs. Harold Alexander. The Grange men will be on hand at 7 p.m. to turn the freezers.

At 8 p.m. Mrs. Martin Stoner and students who are members of the American Junior Citizens Club of the Quarryville Elementary School will present a half hour patriotic program which will also be attended by the Fulton Junior Grangers. Ice cream and strawberries will be served following the program after which the subordinate and junior granges will hold their regular meetings.

About 60 people attended the Go-to-Church service and covered dish supper at the Grange Hall May 17. Rev. Howard Huddleson was the speaker and the Pomona chorus provided special music.

Lancaster County Pomona Grange officers and the fiftieth

anniversary committee will meet at 2 p.m. May 31 at Fulton Grange Hall to complete plans for the fiftieth anniversary of the Pomona Grange. Lancaster County Grangers will participate in the Pomona District meeting to be held at Wakefield Community House, Woodside, Bucks Co., Pa. June 27.

The youth committee is seeking Grange young people to attend the State Grange Youth Camp at Camp Kanesatake, Spruce Creek, Pa. July 17-19 and members under 18 years of age to enter the National Grange safety essay contest.

Farm Women Set European Tour

The Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania is sponsoring a European Tour again this summer which will feature the famous Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany September 14.

The September 11 to October 2 tour of Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy and Switzerland will cost \$825. It is open to Society members, their husbands, families and others interested in the cultural and agricultural activities and life of the people of Europe.

While July 14 is the deadline for Passion Play tickets, tour reservations are available until Aug. 1. The Society will answer questions and furnish information to interested persons who should contact Mrs. W. F. Dummer, Thomasville, Pa. 17364 or phone 717-292-2659. Mrs. Dummer is past state president of the Society.

Travel arrangements are made by Menno Travel Service of Ephrata.

European cities that will be visited include Munich, Salzburg, Krems, Vienna, Venice, Florence, Rome, Pisa, Torino, Montreux. The tour will start from and return to New York by KLM — Royal Dutch Airlines jet.



Wollaston Elected President Of Chester County 4-H Council

Nancy Wollaston of the Manor Calf 4-H Club and London Grove Clothing Club has been elected president of the 4-H County Council of Chester County.

Other new Chester County officers are: Melanie McCartney, Northern Chester County Horse Club, vice-president, Bob White, Octorara Dairy Club, secretary, Anne Minshall, Kaolin Community Club, treasurer and Tom Newell of the Southern Chester County Community Club, parliamentarian.

Outgoing officers are: Diane Lamb, Coatesville RD, president, Melaine McCartney, Chester

Lancaster Poultry Firm Represented on Panel

Harry Hess of J. C. Snavely Inc., Lancaster, is one of the panel members of poultry housing at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at Hershey June 24.

Also on the panel are Glenn Heir, general manager of Cloisterdale Farms, and Dr. Carey Quarels, Indian River Poultry Farms.

Dairy Pageant Tickets

Victor Plastow reminded local citizens who might be coming into the Farm and Home Center that he has tickets for the Dairy Princess Pageant.

The pageant is scheduled at the Farm and Home Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday June 23.

Plastow said some entries have been received for the pageant.

Springs RD2, vice president; Anne Minshall, Kaolin, secretary; Nancy Wollaston, Toughkenamon, treasurer.

The 4-H County Council of Chester County is a representative body of the 60 4-H Clubs in the county, comprising over 1200 4-H members.

These representatives are selected by their clubs to plan and carry out 4-H events and activities that will create a feeling of unity and cooperation among all 4-H clubs. They try to involve as many representatives as possible in the program planning, the use of good parliamentary procedures, committee responsibilities and in the social, educational and recreational activities during the year.

As an example, the Council planned and executed a 4-H Tour to New York City in April in which 200 4-H members and their families participated. It will plan county-wide events such as picnics, 4-H achievement night and recreational events, will assist in various educational events such as Regional Demonstration and Public Speaking Day, and 4-H Roundups.

4-H signs are now evident throughout the county welcoming visitors. These signs have been made and erected by members of the Council.

The Council meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month and this week met to elect new officers of their organization for the current year. The outgoing Council Members greeted new members with a pizza party after the business meeting was held.

Corn is an important crop in Southeastern Pennsylvania and is becoming more so.

Arnold Lueck, associate county agricultural agent, told several farm leaders this week he estimates corn acreage in Lancaster County is up five to 10 per cent this year.

Overall, the indications are growing that there's a lot of excitement and interest among local farmers on the prospects for corn. No-till farming is coming on the scene, better hybrid seed and new equipment is being developed, research is giving new insight into the proper management of the corn crop, corn fits in well with local dairy and livestock operations.

The overall result to the farmer is higher corn yields. Since the cost of production is relatively stable, regardless of the yield, and price has remained relatively stable, any increases in yield have the potential for greatly increasing the farmer's profit on corn.

This article from Northrup, King & Co., a seed supplier, on a New Jersey corn grower illustrates some of the enthusiasm and possibilities for corn producers.