

Keener Wins Corn Contests by 'Leaving Out Guesswork'

Clarence Keener Jr., Manheim RD1, is used to winning corn production contests.

He won the 25 acre or over category in statewide competition in both 1969 and 1970. He has also won other awards.

In winning last year, Keener had an outstanding average of 177.71 bushels per acre on a total of 25.89 acres. This was on non-irrigated land.

While Pennsylvania is not noted as a high corn yield area, there were only a handful of the 535 contestants from 40 states who had higher yields.

Keener does not feel that his high yields come from luck. He considers good management practices and good soil as the key.

In particular, he emphasizes a top-notch fertilization program to keep the soil at the maximum productive level.

His three-stage fertilization program begins with manure from his 250 to 300 head feeder cattle and 500 head hog operation. The manure is phosphated and plowed under.

This is followed with 200 pounds of starter fertilizer at planting time.

When the corn is knee high, it gets a side dressing of anhydrous ammonia.

The entire fertilization program may vary somewhat from year to year, because Keener bases his fertilization program carefully on soil test recommendations. These recommendations take into account the content of the manure.

As the corn reaches the silking stage, a tissue test is taken. This involves taking corn leaves and testing their content to see if the plants are actually getting the proper balance of nutrients. If not, necessary changes are made in the fertilization program the following year.

Keener also places strong emphasis on a top-notch herbicide program. He doesn't want weeds competing with his corn for the nutrients in the soil.

Commenting on Keener's corn program this week, John Weidman, Pioneer Corn Company Eastern Divisional sales manager, stated that Keener "leaves out all of the guesswork."

Keener won the 25 acre contest in both 1969 and 1970 with Pioneer 3369A.

In 1970, Keener farmed 265 acres, including 240 acres of corn. He put 130 acres of his corn in silage and most of the rest was picker-shelled.

He feeds about 250 to 300 cattle at any given time. He buys them at the 600 to 700 pound weight level and feeds them for five to six months to the 1,100 pound level. With a turnover of twice a year, he feeds out about 600 cattle a year.

In addition he feeds out about 500 hogs annually.



Clarence Keener Jr., Manheim RD1, receives an award this week from John Weidman, Pioneer Corn Company, Eastern Divisional sales manager. Keener had

the top yield in the 25 acre corn production contest for the state of Pennsylvania in 1970 with a yield of 177.71 bushels per acre.

21 Cloister FFA Boys Sell Labor

On March 12, the Cloister FFA held a slave auction.

The members were sold to the Ephrata Area Young Farmers for a minimum of four hours to a maximum of eight hours of hard labor.

The boys sold from \$2.80 an hour to \$1.50 an hour. The money the boys make will be given to the FFA.

There were 21 boys sold and two teachers.

The boys were: Lloyd Zeiset, Jay Zimmerman, Robert Harting, Dennis Palm, Rick Pfautz, Richard Bollinger, Eric Copenhagen, Dan Harting, Russel Kline, Ken Long, Gerald Musser, Marlin Smoker, Lester Kurtz, Lynn Weaver, Donald Bollinger, Richard Groff, Paul Horning, Galen Martin, John Mertz, John Weaver, Mel Weiler.

The two teachers sold were Robert Kramer, who was serving as student teacher, and Carl Graybill, who is advisor.

After the slave auction the slaves took on the Young Farmers in a few games of volleyball. After the games refreshments were served in the ag shop.

He also grows about 12 acres of tobacco annually and several acres of grain.

He had been, before this year, planting several acres of barley, and second cropping his barley ground with corn. This year, he will eliminate the second crop, corn, because of his concern about corn rootworm. He found last year that the corn rootworm was a serious problem in the late corn.

Keener considers that a major factor in the success of his feeding operation has been urea in silage.

He uses silage as the energy

factor in his feed ration and adds the urea for its protein content. He works with Miller and Bushong (now Pennfield) to obtain the necessary supplements and properly balanced feed.

While placing strong emphasis on a balanced ration, Keener also stresses the importance of growing his own feed and keeping feed costs down.

To bolster farm-grown barley, he bought some last year from the Eastern Shore for 90 cents a bushel. As grain prices rose substantially last fall in response to the corn blight scare, the Eastern Shore barley turned out to be a good buy.

Keener is a member of the Manheim Young Farmers Association. He has been farming for 11 years.

Besides such basics as a sound fertilization and herbicide program and a balanced feed ration with urea and supplements, Keener thinks such factors as good farm records and a helpful wife and family are important in helping to make ends meet on the farm. The Keener family includes wife Anna Mae and children James, 17, Steve, 14, and Bonnie Sue, 11.

Mrs. Akers Helps With Dairying, But Her Love Is Sewing



Mrs. Akers just completed this flowered chair slip cover and a plain one, as well as her two sofa slip covers.

By Mrs. Charles G. McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

Mrs. Curtis E. (Ruth) Akers, Solanco Acres Farm near Mechanic Grove on Church Road in East Drumore Township, is a life-time farm girl.

She loves to work outdoors, but her main talent and favorite work, or hobby is sewing.

Mrs. Akers received the Home Economics award when she graduated from West Lampeter High School and started sewing for others right after graduation.

She makes diapes and slip covers, robes, suits and coats for herself and three daughters, and sport coats for her son. This winter she even made a man's suit. This took considerable persuasion though. A lady had a nice piece of imported wool suiting which she wanted made for her husband's Christmas gift. She wouldn't even consent to his having a fitting because she wanted to surprise him and Mrs. Akers had never seen him. She couldn't get a man's suit pattern. She used a pattern for a pair of slacks and a sport coat pattern and measured it with one of his suits.

She finished it completely and when he tried it on Christmas morning it fit to a T. Even Mrs. Akers, herself, was proud of this suit.

She does a lot of sewing and

making alterations for other people and helps people with sewing problems such as putting in set-in sleeves.

As far as sewing hints go, she says, "a good way to set in sleeves is to stitch not less than two or three seams along the armhole edge of the sleeve between the notches, the thicker the material—the bigger the stitches, the thinner or softer the material—the smaller the stitch. Draw up the threads till the sieve fits the armhole."

Mrs. Akers has a sewing machine which is 20 years old. You couldn't do this with some of the newer machines, but she fastens a two inch strip of wool material around the arm of her machine and sticks needles and pins in it where they are always at her finger tips.


She gave a series of sewing lessons at Quarryville Sewing

Center in 1954. She served on the sewing committee of the Southern Lancaster County Community Fair two years and later took chairmanship of the committee. She has been chairman five years.

Akers have lived on their 125 acre farm for 10 years and owned it the past five years. They have remodeled and made extensive repairs on their house and now are in the process of enlarging their dairy barn.

They keep 36 Holstein cows and on the average of 30 heifers, but plan to increase their herd eventually to 60 milking cows. They grow corn, alfalfa and wheat.

Curtis is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Akers, Clearville, Bedford County. He became a DHIA milk tester in Lancaster County right after graduation from (Continued On Page 22)



Lancaster Farming

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