

Local Research Shows Bean Yield Averages 42-48 Bushels

Can't Get Top Corn Yields? Try Soybeans, Yocum Suggests

Can soybeans compete with corn as a crop?

For the best Lancaster County corn producers, who achieve yields in excess of 150 bushels to the acre, there is probably no advantage to producing soybeans.

But according to John Yocum, manager of the Penn State Research Farm at Landisville, farmers who have trouble getting more than 100 bushels of corn to the acre can probably

make as much or more from soybeans.

Farmers who are in the middle group of 100 to 150 bushels of corn should evaluate soybeans, according to comments recently by Yocum. The advantage will probably depend on the relative yield of corn or soybeans, he indicated.

Yocum said that last year in research with 10 varieties of soybeans, yield averaged 42.8 bush-

els per acre. The yield from the top variety was more than 48 bushels per acre.

Yocum said that a 40 bushel soybean yield should net the farmer more return than 100 bushels of corn.

The exact relationship between soybeans and corn can vary widely from year to year depending on the price of each. During periods of high priced corn, such as last year, corn is more valuable and it takes fewer bushels of corn to compete with the 40 bushel soybean crop.

But except for the unusual circumstances of blight last year, soybeans generally have been receiving a relatively favorable market in relation to corn. This stems from the fact that consumption of soybeans have been increasing rapidly in this country and abroad. There is a high demand for both domestic use and export.

Soybeans are extremely versatile and are used in oils, plastics, animal feeds, and even human food.

Beans are a protein source. The research at the Landisville farm involves high protein beans up to 50 per cent protein or better. With such a high percentage of protein, a relatively small bean volume could meet a farmer's protein needs, Yocum noted.

Yocum also sees potential in growing beans after barley, thus getting two crops per year from the same ground.

He noted that one study he saw showed that only 10 to 12

bushels of beans are needed following barley to break even. While the bean yield following barley would probably be reduced from the expected 40 bushels to around the 24 bushel area, there would still be substantial returns from beans following barley, according to Yocum.

He emphasized that beans loosen soil and a cover crop would be necessary in the fall. He said a legume crop would put nitrogen back in the soil and he sees no problem with soil fertility from a double cropping system if proper management is used.

He also said it is important that farmers using beans be sure they're properly roasted to stop the enzyme action.

He said he knows of some local farmers who are trying soybeans this year.

Lodged Barley
Commenting on local fields

which have large amounts of lodged barley this year, Yocum said there is probably more lodging than usual but barley is traditionally a crop with a high amount of lodging.

Work currently is underway to find varieties that are stronger and won't lodge.

If the barley goes down early it will probably damage the stalk and reduce yield. If it goes down later, the main loss will be in harvesting, Yocum said.

He attributed the large amount of lodging this year to the wet and cloudy weather that made the barley taller and more susceptible to lodging during hail, rain and wind.

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If agricultural land were divided evenly among U.S. families, each family would get 27.5 acres on which it could expect to earn a net annual income of \$316.

Elementary Students Getting Food Book

The book "Food From Farm to Home" by Walter Buehr is being presented to 101 elementary schools in Lancaster County.

The Lancaster County Farmers Association is undertaking the project with the approval of Dr. Harry K. Geilach, county schools superintendent.

The book examines modern farming techniques and the role played by agriculture in everyday living. The author is well known for his children's textbooks on industrial subjects.

Mrs. Clyde Wivell of the Association's Women's Committee said the book is meant to fill a need by elementary teachers for authentic material on how food is produced through the cycle of planting and production. She said "We want the

children to know that milk really comes from the cow out on the farm, as well as from their doorstep."

She also noted that "we're living in a fast changing world and nearly an entire generation has grown up and wonders at all those products on the supermarket shelves originally come from the mystery of how and where from and who is responsible for this abundance of food."

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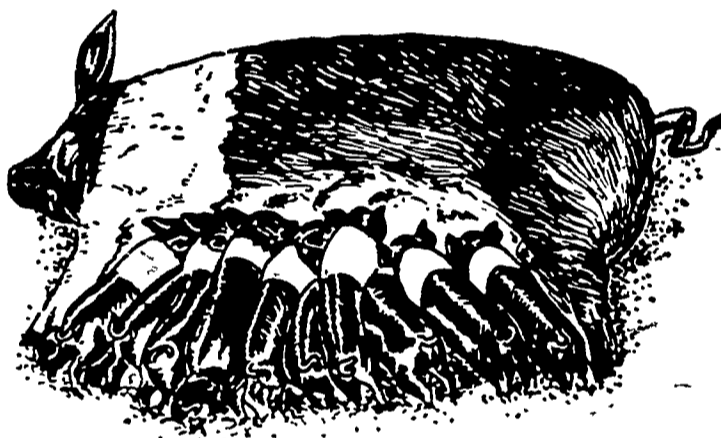
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