

Researcher Tells:

How to Get Maximum Corn Yields

At a local Trojan seed corn meeting this week, farmers were told that achieving maximum yields depends largely on following several basic management practices.

Dr. Dave Nanda, Trojan research director, said these practices include:

— Fix a realistic goal of how much corn should be grown on a particular piece of ground. Determine the yield potential of the soil by testing it and getting the advice of competent persons, such as Extension agents.

— Fertilize to make sure that the ground has enough nutrients of various types to produce the maximum yield sought. For instance, a 150 bushel per acre corn crop uses up 200 pounds of nitrogen, 100 pounds of phosphate and 125 pounds of potash per acre. If these levels of nutrients are not in the ground, the farmer cannot expect to get 150 bushels, Nanda explained.

— Plant early. All the plant's leaves should be out by June 21, the longest day of the year. The greatest amount of sunlight is available the 15 days before and after June 21. The corn needs this maximum amount of sunlight in order to achieve maximum yields, Nanda said.

— Control weeds, insects and diseases. These rob yields. While the introduction of nearly all N seed next year should eliminate Southern corn blight, farmers can still expect trouble from Northern leaf blight and perhaps yellow leaf blight, Nanda said. He noted that some corn varieties are showing resistance, however, particularly to yellow blight. He also noted the importance of controlling corn rootworm.

— Use proper harvest procedures. Proper operation of har-

vesting equipment can save 10 bushels per acre, he stated.

In other comments Nanda was critical of the use of machines for detasseling seed corn. He said the machines tend to cut off several of the top leaves; since 95 per cent of the corn crop is made from leaves above the ear, loss of these top leaves "will reduce the vigor of next year's crop." He said his firm hired several thousand youths this summer for hand detasseling.

Nanda also urged farmers to realize the difference between what he called a single cross and a modified single cross. He explained that the modified cross can be produced much cheaper because the seed crop yields more per acre. But he told farmers that they can normally expect a reduced yield from a modified single cross as compared to a single cross.

While Nanda urged farmers in Southeastern Pennsylvania to use N seed next year, he indicated that T seed will be available. He projected that much T seed probably will be used in the western dry areas and northern areas where Southern blight has not been a factor, and where the lower priced T seed will get as good results as the higher priced N seed.

He said he would anticipate that no-till fields would have a higher incidence of insects and disease problems than plowed fields.

While this part of Pennsylvania is experiencing much blight damage, Nanda said most

of the country is having less blight this year because N corn was used extensively in the Southern states. This kept blight under control in the South so that it didn't blow North as much as last year.

On the question of why a farmer with two N fields had one damaged and one not damaged by Southern blight this year, Nanda said the damage may have occurred from the yellow blight. If it actually was Southern blight, it probably means there was a mistake and the seed probably was not actually N seed, he said.

Following the brief talk in a corn shed on the Eugene Hoover farm near Neffsville, Nanda led a tour of test plots of



Eugene Hoover, left, local Trojan seed representative, and Alton D. Carl, owner of Carlton Seed Company, distributor of Trojan seed in eastern Pennsylvania and New York, examine some Trojan TXS 113, considered one of the firm's best varieties. This variety has long kernels and a relatively small cob, a trait which the company attempts to develop.

various Trojan varieties, commented on each and made recommendations on how to use them.



Local farmers listen as a Trojan representative discusses the merits of various

varieties of corn seed available to farmers.



Dave Nanda, Trojan seed research director, emphasizes a point to local farmers.



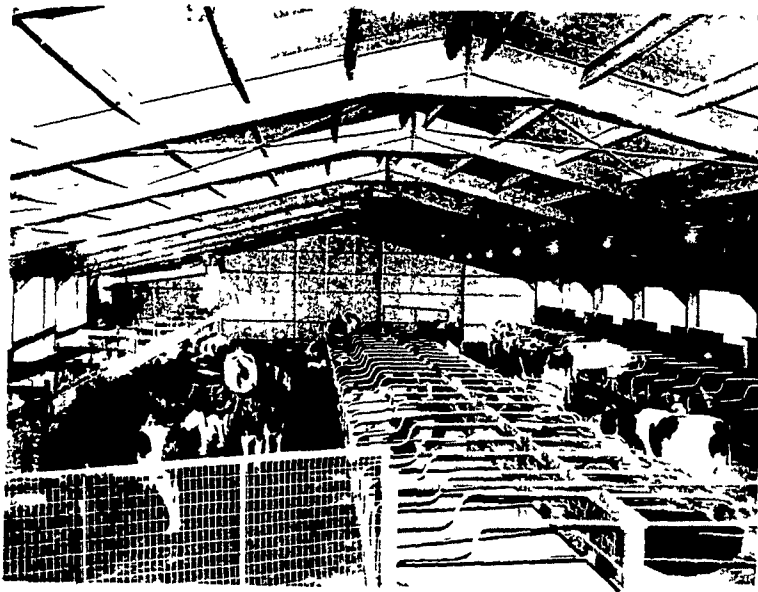
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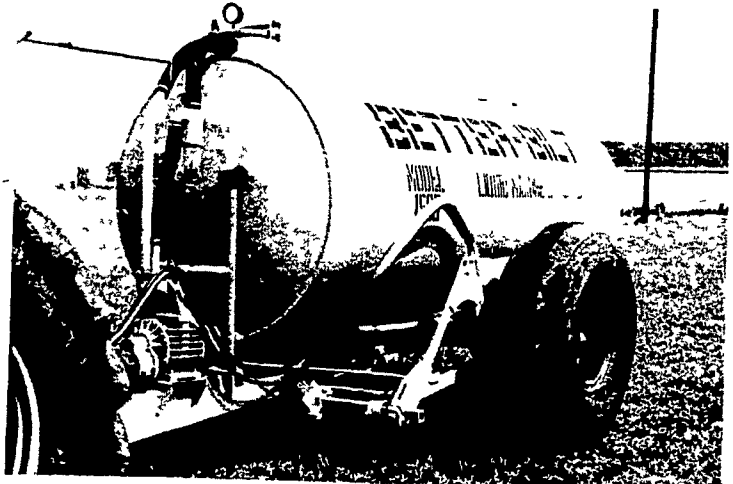
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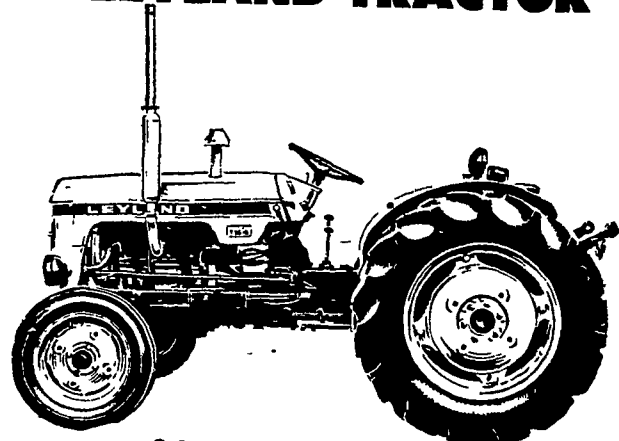
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