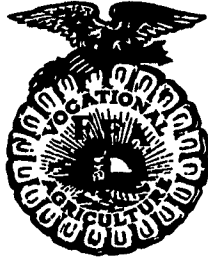


**From Local Ag Teachers:**



# Thoughts in Passing



By Clifford Grube,  
Vo-Ag Teacher,  
Warwick High School

Soybeans are beginning to show up in more Lancaster County fields each year.

Many farmers have grown soybeans as a forage crop, but not as a grain crop.

This is something to think about now because before long we'll be plowing.

This is not a crop only for the cash grain farmer. University tests have shown that cooked whole soybeans are considerably more valuable as a livestock supplement than soybean meal.

It is recommended however that soybeans be roasted to destroy the bitter taste of the raw bean and the trypsin inhibitor which interferes with the protein utilization in swine. Small soybean roasters are available, but it may be advisable to have this done commercially.

For grain, soybeans should be planted in rows, preferably 30 inches wide, at a rate of about 60 pounds per acre. This will give you about eight plants per foot of row.

They can be planted with a corn planter using soybean plates or with a grain drill with some of the tubes blocked off. Planting depth should be one to one and one-half inches. Deep planting will result in slow or poor emergence.

A good level seedbed is important, but if worked too fine can cause crusting and again result in poor emergence.

Like most other legumes, the seed should be inoculated with the proper strain of bacteria before planting.

Variety selection is always puzzling. The best way to solve this problem is to talk to other successful soybean producers and find out what works best for them.



**Clifford Grube**  
Warwick Vo-Ag Teacher

Planting good seed is important. You can expect even certified seed to have a low germination test this year, so such a test is especially important on home grown seed.

Corn should go in before beans. May 10 to June 1 is ideal with plantings as late as July 15 possible. Late plantings will result in a short plant, podded very close to the ground and a reduced yield. In Pennsylvania 40 bushels per acre is considered a good yield.

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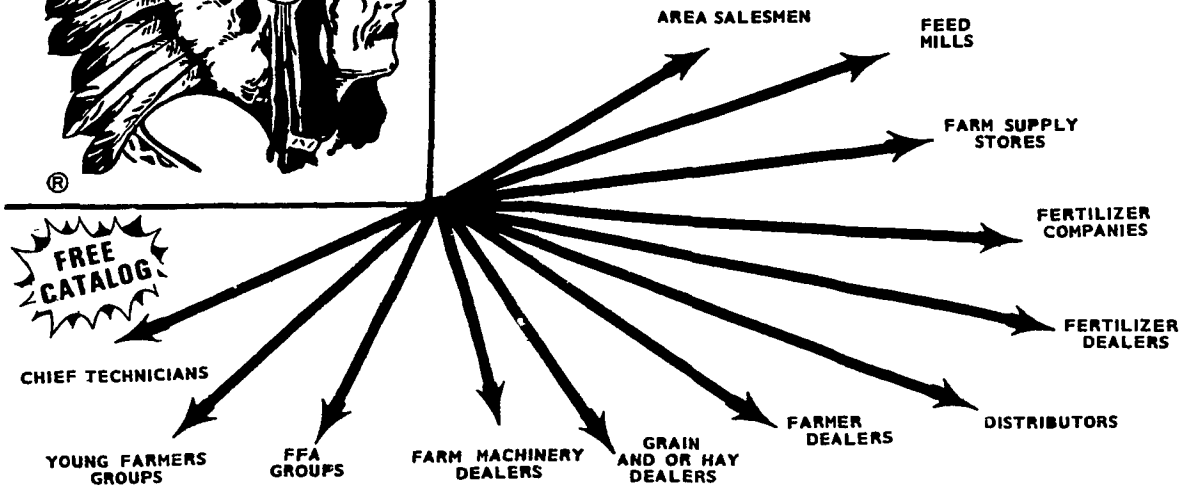
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Hand or Machine Harvest  
Yield testing to be completed or supervised by Local County Agent, Vo Ag Teacher, other Teacher or instructor or other disinterested person.

If official contest in state or county their regulations for checking yield in rule. Be sure to notify County Agent or Vo Ag Teacher or others before their deadline if applicable.

Application should be sent to Muncy-Chief Hybrids, Muncy Pa. 17756 When ordering seed at planting time, but no later than August 15. Be sure to have or get soil tested.

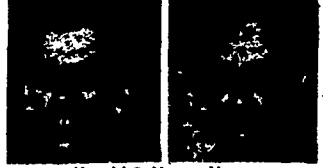
If less than 5 entries in State or County awards given.

#### 5 ACRE CONTEST

For Farmers and Young Farmers 21 or Over  
Same Rules As Above

Champion, First in Nation	Trophy &	\$250.00
Champion, First in State	Trophy &	150.00
Second in State	Trophy &	75.00
Third in State	Trophy &	35.00
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Third in County	Trophy &	10.00

Hand or Machine Harvest  
Use order sheet and deposit 1% of amount for seed received  
Special White Form APPLICATION BLANK  
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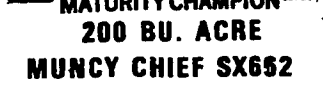
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## Central Tractor Meets

The sixth meeting of the Central 4-H Tractor Club was held March 7 at Landis Brothers.

A decision was made to tour the Caterpillar Tractor Co. in York this summer.

Ron Kreider and Dennis Shellenberger were selected to give demonstrations at the next meeting which will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 14 at Landis Brothers Inc., Manheim Pike, Lancaster.

News Reporter  
Jere Swarr

Plowing down phosphorus and potassium is recommended, but little nitrogen is needed since soybeans are legumes. Soil PH should be 6.5 - 7.

Weeds will probably be your biggest problem. Chemical or mechanical cultivation is a must. First try to identify your weed problem and then select the herbicide that will best control it. Again, talk to other growers to find out their results with particular chemicals. Some companies are over-optimistic about what weeds their product will control.

For those really on the ball, mechanical cultivation may do the trick alone, but don't let weeds get ahead of you.

Avoid ridging when cultivating since some varieties pod all the way to the ground and the combine head must travel very low to harvest all of it. A rotary hoe or rolling cultivator does a beautiful job here.

Harvesting is done with a regular grain combine. An ideal machine would have a pickup reel, reel speed adjustment, straw spreader and robot head, but a careful operator can do the job with any combine if he goes slow, keeps the head low and keeps the cylinder speed down.

Moisture should not exceed 13 per cent if soybeans to be stored and 13.5 to 14 per cent if they are sold on the grain marker. Otherwise you will be docked for excessive moisture.

It's surprising how fast they dry down with a little fair weather, but early morning moisture will usually delay combining until 10 a.m.

In summarizing, let's stand back and look at the advantages of soybeans. They are not heavy feeders of soil nutrients. They are more acid tolerant than corn. They can be harvested early in the fall with no artificial drying. You have less grain per acre to handle, and they sold for over \$3 per bushel out of the field last year. They lend themselves to double cropping and most rotations. They add nitrogen to the soil and improve tilth. They make a good cattle supplement and, probably most important, there is a world-wide need for the product and at present a short supply.

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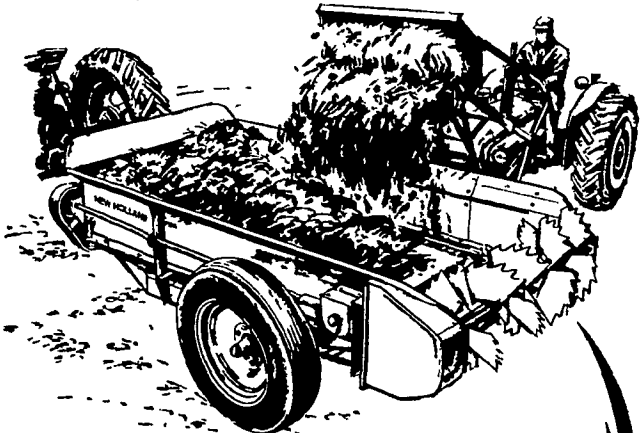
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