

# Organic Acids for Corn Preservation Becoming Popular

Preserving corn by using organic acids is becoming an accepted alternative to dried corn storage, an Extension agronomist at The Pennsylvania State University declared.

Joseph H. McGahen, speaking at the annual Lime and Fertilizer Conference on the Penn State campus January 26, pointed out that in 1971 over 100,000 bushels of shelled corn were acid treated. Storage losses occurred in less than 2 percent of the treated grain.

"Organic acid preservation offers several advantages," the agronomist said. "Application is rapid, storage facilities need only protect the treated grain from the weather, and treated grain can be moved from storage and restored."

In the fall of 1971, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the use of certain acids for preservation of feed grains. These acids are propionic and acetic.

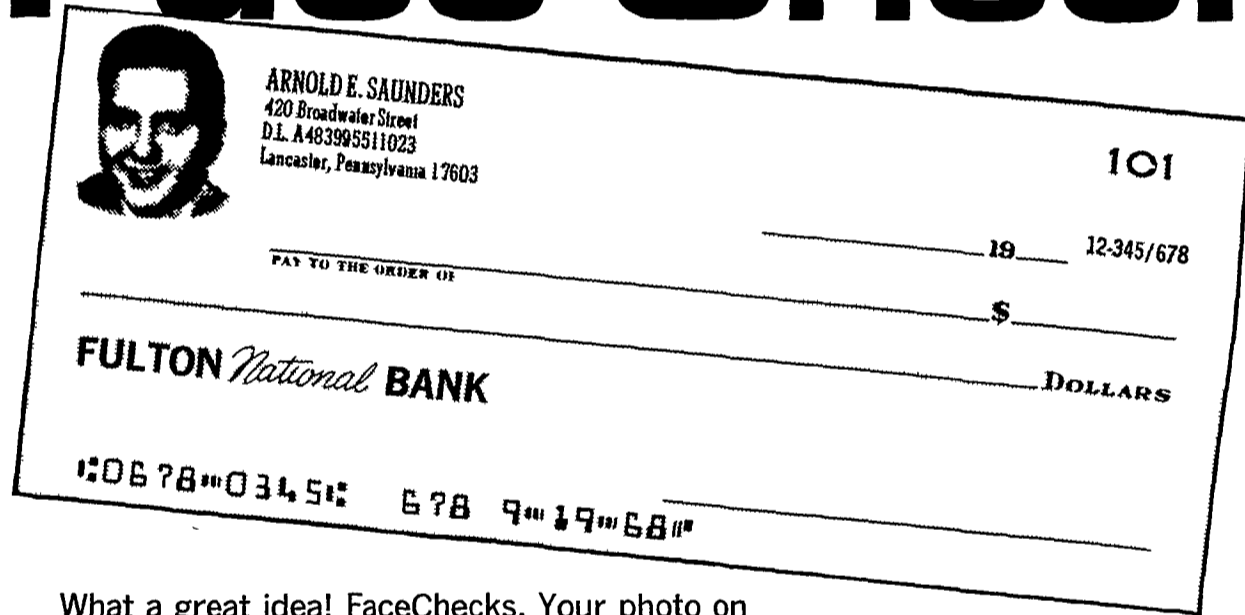
Application rates and costs vary with the grain moisture content and they appear to be comparable to drying costs, Mr. McGahen noted. A range of \$1.94 to \$8.40 per ton has been reported.

"Acceptance and use of an acid preservative may well depend on a feasible method of treating ear corn," the Penn State agronomist said. "Chopped or ground ear corn has been successfully preserved with acid treatment, however, the economics of acid preservations of corn and cobs are not well defined at this time."



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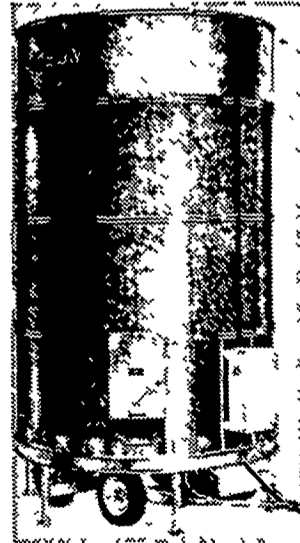
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