

Cornbelt Grower Records 306.6-Bushel Yield

A new chapter was added to agricultural history recently with the announcement that Orville Montri, a LaSalle, Michigan, corn grower had established a new world record corn yield of 306.6 bushels per acre.

Announcement was made to a group of agricultural communicators by D. D. Walker, Chairman and President of Funk Seeds

International, Inc. "In the process of establishing a new world record, Mr. Montri also established himself as the 1973 champion in the Funk's-G Project:200 national corn growing contest. His hybrid was Funk's G-4444.

"His yield of 306.6 bushels per acre was made on 4.4 acres, machine harvested and delivered to the elevator, cleaned and weighed. Even more impressive is the fact that Mr. Montri did not glean his field," Mr. Walker stated.

Dr. E. C. Rossman, Crop and Soil Sciences Department, Michigan State University, who visited the Montri farm, had this to say, "We in Michigan are very pleased that one of our good farmers, Orville Montri of Monroe County, has grown the new world's record yield of 306.6 bushels per acre in the Funk's-G Project:200 national corn growing contest. We congratulate Mr. Montri on achieving this record yield.

"One thing I would like to say, farmland in that corner of Michigan, particularly



Dr. E. C. Rossman, right, professor of plant breeding and genetics, Michigan State University, talks with Orville Montri, LaSalle, Mich., commercial grain farmer, about Mr. Montri's new world record corn yield of 306.6 bu.-A. machine-harvested from 4.4 acres of 40-acre field.

Monroe and Lenawee Counties, compares favorably with good corn land in any other part of the Corn Belt. We can grow some very good corn in Michigan."

This is the first recorded breakthrough of the 300 bushel per acre barrier by a commercial farmer. The previous record of 304.38 bushels per acre was established in 1955 by Lamar Ratliff, Prentiss County, Mississippi. Ratliff's record was made on a measured single acre of land, hand picked and gleaned prior to weighing. Ratliff, a vocational agriculture student, grew his yield as an FFA project. He also used a Funk's G-Hybrid.

Montri farms 1,100 acres near LaSalle with his brothers Marvin and Lyle. "When weather permits, we follow a rotation," he says. "The field with the record yield is about 40 acres in total. It was in wheat in 1972, soybeans in 1971 and corn in 1970. We had planned to grow beans there in 1973 but weather conditions made us change our plans and I'm glad we switched to corn.

"When Dr. Rossman came

down to talk about the record yield, I told him we had also taken a 100 bushel per acre wheat yield off this same field last year.

"Before we switched from beans to corn on that field, we had plowed down 200 pounds of 6-24-24 per acre. In the winter, when we changed our minds, we put 500 pounds of 6-24-24 on top of the snow.

"Last spring was cool and we ran over the field with a cultivator. It didn't rain and the field seemed to be in perfect condition so we put the drag and roller on it and put the drill right behind. We planted on April 25. We set the drill to drop 8.3 and wound up with about three acres out of each bag. We put an additional 300 pounds of 6-24-24 per acre on at planting.

"We planted small rounds, the smallest seed we could get. As a matter of fact, I used to be against using the small seed but our dealer told us we got more seed for our money with this size and we have found it works just as well as large seed."

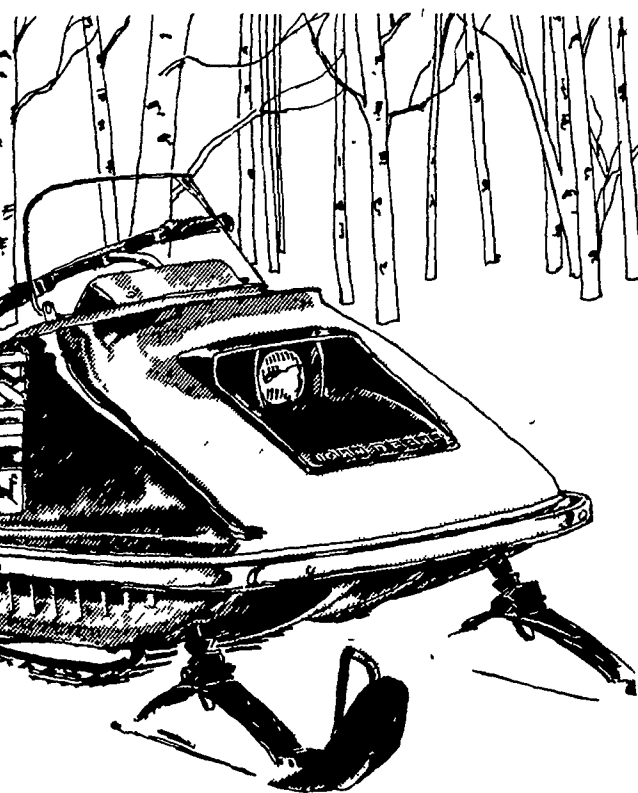
Normally, Montri plants his seed at a depth of two to two and a half inches. "We

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