

Farm Writers Tour Dekalb Facility

by Dick Wanner
This writer, along with some 50 other farm writers and broadcasters, spent a few days last week in Dekalb, Illinois, as the guest of Dekalb Agresearch Inc., producers of hybrid corn, sorghum and wheat seed as well as hybrid layers. The occasion was Dekalb's annual communications days conference.

The assembled journalists talked to company officials, toured the research farms and witnessed the awarding of three Dekalb Oscars in Agriculture. Oscars are presented each year to a farm newspaper writer, a farm magazine writer and a farm broadcaster.

This year's winners were Don Razez, managing editor of the California Farmer magazine, San Francisco; Cliff Adams, farm service director of radio station KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa; and Dick Wanner, Lancaster Farming editor.

Several Dekalb officers reported on crop conditions across the country, using information supplied by company seedmen on their particular areas. As ex-

pected, prospects in general, especially in the Midwest, were for grain crops markedly under the predictions of earlier in the year. Late planting because of wet fields was a cause, drought was another factor, and early frost provided a triple weather "whammy" for many parts of the Midwest. Growing conditions in the Northeast, however, were generally acknowledged to have been favorable.

The nation's seed crop, of course, is Dekalb's main area of concern and their main area of expertise. The corn seed crop will be down from last year but supplies should be adequate, we were told by Carroll Christensen, the company's vice-president for seed marketing. "There's no cause for panic," Christensen said, "but there is a real need for urgency. Farmers who don't order their seed supplies early may find themselves without anything to put in the ground next spring."

"Throughout our industry, the output of seed corn will be down about 26 percent this

year," Christensen noted. "Supplies were hurt this year when farmers were forced to replant their fields two or three times because of wet weather. And we were hurt by the drought, too, just like other crops. Drought reduced the national corn crop by about 26 percent, and it reduced the seed crop by about the same amount."

"Industrywide production this year was expected to total about 20 million bushels and we expected to have a six million bushel carryover from last year. Instead, we find ourselves with a 14.8 million bushel crop, and a five million bushel carryover. We'll also get some seed 'coming out of the cracks'. It's out there in warehouses, in barns, in rail cars. We don't know where it is, but it's there, and a tight year brings it out. It should add another 300,000 bushels or so to the available seed supply."

"Normally, we use about 20 million bushels of seed corn in this country every year, so we're going to have just enough to meet the demands for the 1975 crop. It will be more expensive seed, but it will be available for the farmer who orders it early. The supply and demand situation will have something to do with the higher cost, of course. But the big factor will be the fact that seed companies simply had to pay more this year to produce a bushel of seed corn. And our prices have to reflect those higher costs."

Some other highlights of the two-day event are recapped below.



The Dekalb corn physiology research program includes a number of projects designed to increase the productivity of the corn plant such as

through the development of prolific (multiple eared plants) as shown by Dr. Ron Castleberry, Dekalb research agronomist.

Two-Eared Corn Research
Corn growers and corn researchers alike have long waited the day when multiple eared corn would become a reality.

DeKalb recently announced that some of their research and testing work on prolific or multiple eared corn looks very promising. Dr. Basil Tsotsis, director of corn research, explains that maintaining a second good ear at high populations has

been one of the big challenges with research work on prolific corns in the past. Many of the hybrids having the prolific tendency will produce two or more ears at low and sometimes moderate planting densities,

[Continued on Page 54]

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PUBLIC SALE
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 1974
FAIR VIEW FARM & STABLES

Turnpike Road, three miles west of Elizabethtown, Pa.
FARM AND CHICKEN EQUIPMENT

Furniture, 10:00 a.m. Real Estate, 2:00 p.m.
REAL ESTATE consisting of Approx 3 1/2 acres of Field, Trees and Spring with a lot of Frontage on Hard Road "A good quiet spot in the country" Will be sold at Fair View Farm & Stables 2:00 p.m. Real Estate location Turnpike Road from Elizabethtown turn left at first road after passing "Fair View Farm & Stables", turn left at next road, see Sale Sign

Oliver O C 3 Crawler with Loader J D Hay Conditioner 14 Rubber-tired Flat Wagon 1 H 28 disc Harrow Spike Harrow 7' Cultipacker D B Rubber-tired 4-bar Sidelivery Rake Circular Saw Frame for A C-B, Trailer Axle, Ford Tractor Jack N1 12 A
M Spreader w/Extra New Tire 4-hole Hog Feeder Grindstone, Circular Saw Blade, Wheel Weights for A C Metal Water Tub Small Tractor with Hydraulic Lift and Scoop to clean out chicken pits Wire Cages for 5,000 chickens, Cage Troughs Metal Chicken Nests Chicken Feeders, 2 Egg Carts, Metal Feed Bins Chicken Crates, 55-gal Drums Herrmatic Cage Feeder (self propelled) Berry Boxes Window Sashes, Double Wash Tubs Old Doors

STALLION TWIN-7, Mower
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CONSIGNMENT SALE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
9:30 A.M.

Location: 1/2 mile North of Route 23 on North
Maple Ave. in Leola, Lancaster Co., Pa.

Corn Binders, Corn Pickers, Harvesters, Silo
Fillers, 300 pcs of Panelling, 15 insulated new
house windows, insulation, large variety of used
Lumber

Tractors, Farm Machinery, Horse Drawn
Implements, New Tools, Lumber, etc., etc. We
have buyers for hay and straw.
We sell on Commission

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Next Sale Wednesday, November 6
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

PUBLIC SALE
OF FARM EQUIPMENT
TUESDAY, SEPT. 24, 1974
At 12 O'clock

-Located 5 mile east of Elizabethtown, along Harvest Road. Take
Elizabethtown Road to Drumheller Garage, go north on Trail Road to
Harvest Road. From Colebrook go south to Harvest Road. Watch for
signs.

JOHN DEERE 2520 DIESEL
700 hrs. Fully Equipped
J.D. F325 Auto. Reset Plow

Allis Chalmers WD-45 wide front end. A.C. manure
loader, J.D. No. 34 corn harvester, J.D. 494 four row
corn planter, N.H. 68 Hayliner baler (w) bale thrower,
J.D. 30' elevator, J.D. No. 953 running gears (w) bed,
A.C. side mounted mower; N.H. 404 crusher, M.H. No.
36 rake, M.H. Spreader PTO, Kil Bros. gravity bin (w)
6 T. running gears, M. M. transport disc, Case spring
harrow, Case 9' cultipacker, N.H. blower, 32' silo pipe,
J.D. goose neck, N.I. wagon (w) flat bed, 3 pt.
cultivator, weeder, I.H. potato digger, J.D. model 14
chain saw, 2-Wheel Horse Tractors - 6 h.p. & 7 h.p. both
(w) electric starters & mowers, Toro 920 tractor &
mower, Simplex 7 h.p. mower (w) elec. starter, Wizard
riding mower, Wizard 22" mower, Merri tiller,
Eliminator high pressure washer, 3 hydraulic cylinders,
air compressor, tractor chains, anti-freeze, log chains,
motors, elec. fence chargers, dehorner, cyclone
seeder, sizing boxes, used tires, 9' truck bed,
wheelbarrow, 275 gal. tank, 55 gal. drums, shop vac.,
liquid sup. feeder, Sunbeam clippers, treated posts,
forks, tools, Surge alamo 30 plus vacuum pump, 2
Surge milking units, S. S. buckets, strainer, Watkins
jet sprayer, milk cans lathe (w) motor, fertilizer, Barn
Dri, picnic table, Vesper coal heater, duo-therm
heater, many more articles.

34 TON HAY
7 TON STRAW

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