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22-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Oct. 19, 1974



Close to 800 samples shelled corn will go through a weighing and moisture testing procedure before this crew moves their equipment to another part of the country. Bob Weaver, left, Francis Goring, center, and Randy Keown, in dark jacket, are researchers from Windfall, Indiana, who

travel the country planting, harvesting and checking up on some of Trojan Seed Company's 46 research plots throughout the U.S. Watching the peripatetic trio at work near Lititz this week was Eugene Hoover, far right, local Trojan Seed representative.

Traveling Corn Researchers Visit Lancaster County Farm

researchers pulled into the from Windfall, Indiana, Charles Cassel Farm at home of Trojan's Eastern Lititz RD2 this week with a Research Division. The job trailer load of buckets, of Bob Weaver, Randy meters, scales and one of the Keown and Francis Goring is world's tightest one - row to travel to the company's corn pickers.

research assistants with the spring, they plant corn in

A trio of wayfaring corn Trojan Seed Company, hail Missouri and gradually work research plots East of the The three men, all Mississippi. Starting in early.

their way east and North, until they're in Canada. Then they pay another visit to each plot, to thin the population from the original planting density of 33,000 plants to the acre back to 26.000.

Finally, they visit each

plot at harvest time to record the yields. That's what they were doing this week on the Cassel farm. The one-row picker-sheller used in this operation is a standard production model, but modified so that it cleans out as completely as possible after each variety is harvested. "We could dump 50 pounds of corn into one end of this machine and get 49and-a-half back," Francis Goring told us. "It has to be that way. If the machine didn't clean out, our results wouldn't be anywhere near accurate."

Accuracy, Goring pointed out, is very important in an experimental operation. Although Trojan has only two-and-a-half acres of corn at the Lancaster County research site, there are 252 varieties planted there. Most of these varieties are experimental hybrids, but the research team is also running tests on about 15 commercially available varieties. Some competitive varieties are also checked. The corn goes from the harvester into plastic

buckets. When filled, these buckets are weighed and tested for moisture right in the field. All yield data are based on a 15.5-percent moisture basis. At the same time they check the yield, the three researchers also check the corn plants for stalk quality, ear retention and root quality.

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