

Corn-soybean field day

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"You must remember," he explained, "Pennsylvania had a long range of maturation days." "Some areas need only 80 days to mature the corn while others require up to 130."

Johnson noted that the hybrids were being evaluated on an overall basis including testing for yield and growth.

Visiting the test plots of soybeans was the next stop on the tour, with Dick Cole

leading the discussion. Explaining the need for good soil and moisture, Cole noted that it had been difficult for many farmers who raise the commodity, to get it in quickly enough this year.

"Because of the weather, even getting corn in was later this year," Cole explained.

"Soybeans need to be in as soon after May 1 as possible."

Soybeans have become a popular cash crop in this

area with many farmers either taking their crops to Baltimore for export or selling them for livestock feed.

However, this year may bring problems to those farmers who raised an oversupply, as the market for the commodity is now depressed. The combination of a record oversupply from last year (some 186 million bushels) and the decrease in use has become a concern for many farmers.

Speaking on the soybean market, Joh Yocum, director of the research farm commented, "yes, its true that the soybean market has become depressed."

"Palm oil is becoming cheaper to process than soybean oil and anchovies (small fish) are now more popular as a source of protein." "Therefore, the market has slipped."

Asked whether or not the depressed situation could hurt the area farmers, Yocum noted, "things could very well change depending on our exports to the Asian countries."

"The market may remain low but more exports of soybeans could really help."

One relative of the soybean, which received much attention at the field day was the mung bean plot. Somewhat similar to the soybean, the mung bean, that originated in China, has a high degree of protein.

While the mung bean crop at the research farm did not fair well, other plots of the commodity planted throughout the county did respond to the southeastern

Pa. climate. The beans are used heavily by the Chinese communities in the large city.

Always a favorite topic of either discussion or debate is the question of whether insecticides should be used on a crop such as corn. Joe McGahen, reported to the group some of his findings, comparing corn treated with insecticides against non-treated entries.

McGahen noted that it was still too soon to comment on all the outcomes since harvest was still sometime away, but the Penn State representative did disclose that insecticides such as furidan had helped in increasing the number of viable plants in test plots.

"Whenever we talk about using an insecticide, we've got to look at the environmental impacts," McGahen stated.

"We've got to do a lot more work with insecticides before we reach ultimate conclusions," he noted.

McGahen chided farmers for being in a haste to use insecticides without really looking at their crops.

"We just have gotten away from the habit of walking our fields and looking closely at our crop," McGahen noted.

"If we walked the fields when the crops were beginning to mature, we could find trouble in time to really halt it, but how many of us do that anymore?" he questioned.

McGahen answered numerous questions from the visitors on the use of insecticides with no-till methods.

"With no-till there is little or no work in the fields any more," "maybe working in the crop helped cut down on

Holsteins classified

R & J Farms, Richard and James Batz of Annville reports that his registered Holsteins were classified for body conformation on Sept. 4. The scoring was done by an official classifier of Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Brattleboro, Vermont.

Dairymen enrolled in this herd improvement program receive a numerical score for each animal evaluated. The True-Type Holstein represents theoretical perfection and has a value of

100 points on the classification score card. Each animal is scored, receiving a rating of Excellent (90 points or more), Very Good (85 through 89), Good Plus (80 through 84), Good (75 through 79), Fair (65 through 74) or Poor (64 points or below).

Including animals previously scored, the R & J Farms herd has 7 Very Goods and 19 Good Pluses.

To provide a more complete image of each animal, the classifier also uses comparative terms to describe twelve major parts of the animal's physical characteristics. This "word picture" serves as a guide for planning a breeding program to improve the herd.

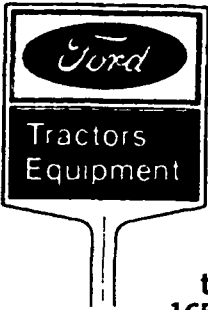
The information from the classification of the herd will be summarized by the Holstein Association on its high speed computer. Returned to the breeder, these reports provide useful information for selection in the herd. The data is also published and available as reference for the herd improvement programs of Holstein dairymen everywhere.

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Type: 50 Classified Daus Ave. 77.7; 46 Pr. + 38 PDT			
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USDA (May/75) - 295 Daus in 168 Herds Ave	15,257M	3.79%	579F
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