Maryland corn yield crown taken by 205.37 bu./acre

COLLEGE PARK, Md. -With semi - drought conditions prevailing at many locations on the Eastern Shore of Maryland during the 1976 growing season. members of the Baltimore County Corn Club have captured the first 12 placings in the official state corn yield contest.

They kept the Maryland corn - growing championship west of the Chesapeake Bay for the second consecutive year and the third time in the last six years.

Also for the second consecutive year, the winning state corn yield was acheive under no - tillage cultural methods. Five of the top seven yields in 1976 were attained by no - till farmers.

Current state champion is the farming operation of Chilcoat and Peters, Inc., in north central Baltimore

This partnership had a near - record contest yield of 205.37 bushels of corn per acre. The partners are Harry M. Chilcoat and William A. Peters. Both have Sparks addresses.

Their farming operation is spread over several locations in the county, totaling nearly 1600 acres. ' About 1100 acres are planted to corn each year, 400 acres to small grain, and 100 acres in soybeans.

The official state contest is conducted each year as a part of the corn improvement program of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland at College Park and Princess Anne. Yield measurements are supervised by county Extension agricultural agents, and awards to state winners are presented by the Maryland Crop Improvement Association.

Chilcoat and Peters achieved their 1976 state winning yield with Trojan TXS - 114 hybrid. They planted their corn in sod on May 5, using 30-inch rows. Their estimated stand was 23,400 plants per acre.

Soil pH was 6.1, and fertilizer was broadcast prior to planting. The nitrogenphosphorus - potassium ratio was 150-100-120. Herbicides used for weed control included paraquat, atrazine (AAtrex), simazine (Princep) and dicamba (Banvel). They used carbofuran (Furadan) and chlordane to control soil insects.

According to the 1976 summary, planting dates for the top 12 contestants in the **Baltimore County Corn Club** ranged from April 17 to May 22. and row widths' ranged from 30 to 40 inches. However the five top no -till contestants all used 30-inch rows.

Plant populations ranged from 18,300 to 23,500 plants per acre. Most test weights among the top 12 approximated 52 pounds per bushel. Five different hybrid companies were represented in this same group, and no one variety was used by

more than two contestants. Average contest yield for the top dozen corn farmers in Baltimore county for 1976 was 187.04 bushels per acre. By comparison, across the state line in adjacent York County, Pa., only one con-



Harry M. Chilcoat (left) of Sparks (Baltimore county) receives a congratulatory handshake from Dr. James R. Miller, agronomy department chairman at the University of Maryland in College Park. Chilcoat is a partner in Chilcoat and Peters. Inc., an Upper Bay farming operation which won the official 1976 state corn growing championship with a near-record yield of 205.37 bushels per acre. Chilcoat was honored last month during the annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association on the University of Maryland campus at College Park.

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Three partners in the Trenton Mill Farms operation at Upperco (Baltimore county) receive congratulations and a certificate from representatives of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service for consistent high yields with both corn and soybeans. Shown are (left to right): G. Richard Curran of Westminster, county Extension agricultural agent in Baltimore county; partners John P. ("Pete")

Devereux of Upperco, W. Clarence Mielke of Upperco, and Charles R. Mielke of Hampstead; and Joseph L Newcomer of Brinklow (Montgomery county), Extension agronomist at the University of Maryland in College Park. The Trenton Mills group placed first in the official 1974 Maryland and Mid-Atlantic soybean yield contests: first in the 1975 state corn yield contest, and third in the 1976 state corn yield contest.



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