



A sizable group of Lancaster County corn growers expressed interest in latest technology at a recent field meeting near Lititz. Speaking to the gathering is John Weideman. He notes that the length of the ear of corn is determined by the plant when it is knee-high.

## Critical corn growth stages found

**By DIETER KRIEG**  
LITITZ - According to latest research conducted by crops specialists, many farmers are mistaken in their belief that corn is on its way towards good yields once it stands knee-high. The reason for this

common thought is that the young plants can shade the soil to some degree at that point, thereby helping to retain soil moisture and retard weed growth, the young plants are through the "baby stage" of growth. But all that doesn't assure a good

crop by any means, as farmers well know.

What many farmers and researchers have not known until recently, however, is that the size of the ear the mature plant will bear is determined at the knee-high stage. Therefore, corn

specialists at the Pioneer Seed Corn Company emphasize that this stage of growth is very critical if maximum yields are to be realized.

The revelation has been made during recent field days sponsored by the seed

corn firm. The last in a series of these meetings was held near here this week on the Levi Rohrer farm. Approximately 150 farmers were in attendance for the mid-morning program, which included presentations on insect and weed control, yield comparisons, and corn growing tips.

John Weideman, Pioneer representative, noted that the first stress period for corn after emergence is the knee-high stage. It is one of four major stress periods, his company has found. The

others are: emergence, pollination, and good weather at harvest time so the ears may dry.

The Pioneer people illustrated their point by comparing ears of corn which were only partially filled out with those that were. The explanation for the difference is that ear size is determined early in the plant's life. That would amount to the plant having good intentions. However, if unfavorable conditions turn up thereafter, then the plant

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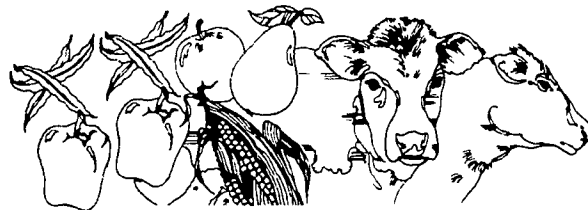
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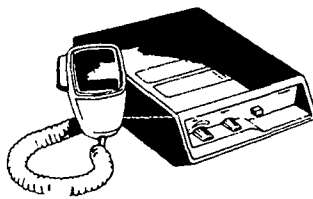
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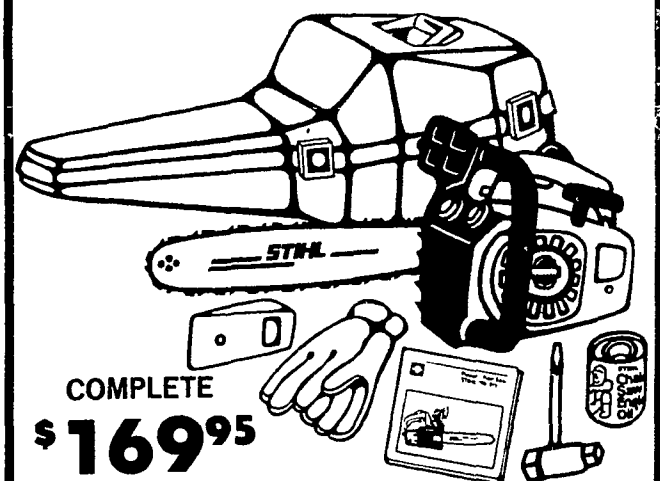
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