

Kerry Boyd exhibits winning corn entry

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER — "If you don't keep up the fertility of the soil you can't expect a strong population and top yields," commented Kerry Boyd Wednesday after winning the Lancaster County FFA Corn Show at the Farm and Home Center, here. His winning ears came

from a 9-acre field which was planted with Pioneer 3369-A, a variety which he has preferred during all of his years in club work. This was Boyd's 10th and last year in the contest as a youth exhibitor.

Boyd, who farms in partnership with his father, Elmer, at Ephrata R5,

bested corn show entries exhibited by Wayne Hess and Steve Shertzer, both from the Penn Manor FFA Chapter. Hess finished second and Shertzer trailed in third.

The top corn in the Lancaster County 4-H Corn Show, which was held at the same time, was shown by

James Bollinger of Lincoln. Scott Brinton of Peach Bottom placed second and Steve Aument of Quarryville was third.

Boyd planted his award-winning corn during the first week of May. "I sprayed for weeds and prayed for rain - not too much and not too little," he commented dryly. "We planted 28,000 seeds per acre and harvested 24,000 plants per acre." The yield, he reported, was right around 200 bushels per acre.

Manure, rather than commercial fertilizer, is being credited for the high performance. "We never put on more than 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre," Boyd remarked, adding that the field from which he picked the winning ears received just 250 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer per acre. The Boyds have 65 head of dairy cattle on just 40 acres, which

allows them to use lots of manure. Also, Boyd places strong emphasis on annual soil tests and a 4-year crop rotation program. Ground limestone is applied to the fields as needed.

During his seven years of FFA competition in the corn show, Boyd has won two first places and two seconds. He plans on going to the Farm Show with his entries.

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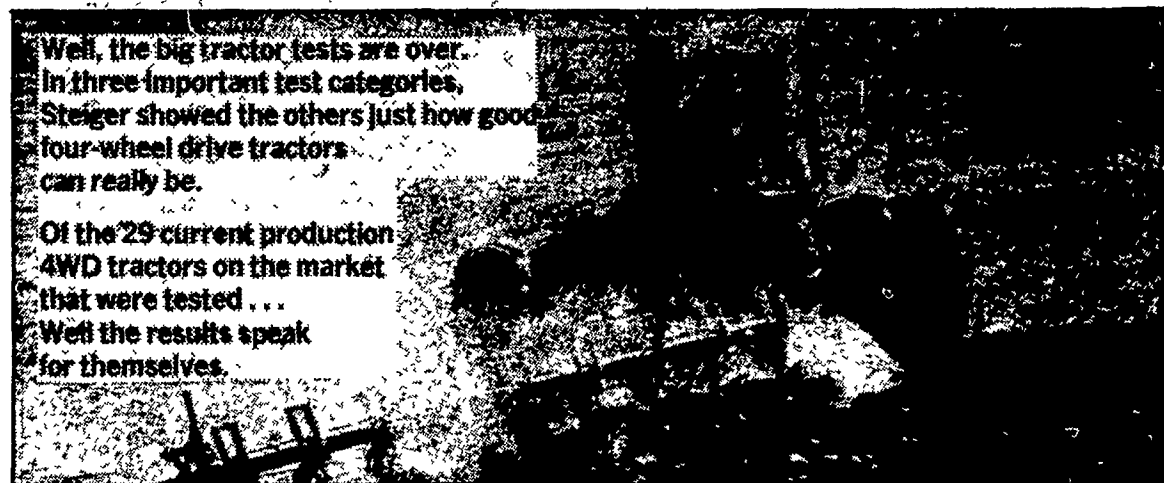


Kerry Boyd, Ephrata, displayed these winning ears of corn at the Lancaster County Corn Show.

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