

Natural-air drying of shelled corn catches on despite mixed reviews from outside experts



The principles of a patented grain drying and storage system, called "Chillcuring" were explained in Lancaster recently by company founder Sylvester Steffen, right. The electrical control unit (shown) is said to automatically switch on (or off) a network of infrared lights that may be used to help dissipate moisture. A digital read-out lets the farmer know to what extent water is being removed from the stored grain.

By DIETER KRIEG
BIRD-IN-HAND — Not many farmers manage their grain from the standpoint that it is a living, sensitive organism, says Sylvester Steffen, a Midwesterner who grew up on a farm, had

ambitions of becoming a minister, and wound up developing and selling grain storage systems. In Lancaster County last month to display his product and broadcast his philosophy to interested visitors at the

No-Till Convention, Steffen followed up with a special meeting of his own the following day. He wanted to tell people about his concept for curing and storing grain. He claims it saves energy (Turn to Page 95)

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