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Baltimore again tops Maryland corn contest

BALTIMORE, Md. — Baltimore county's Hereford high school FFA chapter narrowly earned top honors in Maryland's 1979 official corn yield contest with a mark of 187.57 bushels per acre.

A hair-breadth behind were three entries from the upper Eastern Shore:

J.S. Quimby and Sons of Centreville, Queen Anne county, finished a close

second at 187.5 bushels per acre;

Olan H. Simpkins, 17, of Millington, Kent county, placed third with 187.0 bushels per acre;

Michael C. Cohey of Chestertown, Queen Annes county, was fourth with 186.2.

Alan W. Baynard of Trape, Talbot county, placed fifth at 181.15 bushels per acres. He and the other winners have

been honored at banquets during the past two months for achievements within their respective county corn yield contests.

The official state corn yield contest has been conducted since 1952 as part of the crop improvement programs of the Extension Service at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Yield measurements are supervised by Extension agricultural agents in participating counties, and awards to state winners are presented each year by the Maryland Crop Im-

provement Association.

An official state soybean yield contest is operated in a similar manner.

The 1979 state corn and soybean yield champions will be honored during an evening banquet on February 26 in the Tidewater Inn at Easton. Those awards will be presented in conjunction with the seventy-third annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association.

This is the fifth consecutive year that a Baltimore county

representative has won the annual state corn yield contest. And it is the fourth time in those five years that the winning entry was produced by the no-tillage method.

The top five producers in the 1979 official state yield contest achieved field populations averaging 22,360 corn plants per acre at harvest time.

They applied an average of 131 pounds of nitrogen per acre to their contest fields during the growing season, and all used at least three different pesticides for

chemical control of weeds and soil insects.

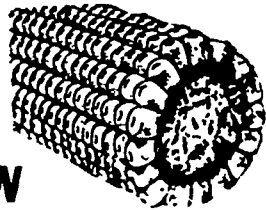
Row widths averaged slightly less than 33 inches, and three of the top five utilized 30-inch spacing between rows.

With a cool, damp spring, the average planting date for the top five entries was May 4.

The official Maryland state corn yield record has stood since 1965. That mark is 207.59 bushels per acre. It was set by an Eastern Shore partnership which included Edward H. Boyd of Wye Mills.

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Md. tobacco exports rise during 1979

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — Southern Maryland's tobacco farmers can lay claim to the oldest exporting tradition in the state and figures for fiscal 1979 show that \$15,679,000 of their prize leaf was exported.

This represented an almost \$2 million increase from the year before period but did not exceed the \$17 million Maryland tobacco

shipments overseas recorded in fiscal 1977.

Ronald L. Johnson, Director of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Division of Marketing commented on the tobacco export figures noting, "American agriculture has set an all time record of \$32 billion in exports in fiscal 1979 resulting in a net

agriculture trade surplus of \$15.8 billion.

"These export earnings from the farm benefit the entire American economy by helping earn the money needed to pay for such vital imports as oil. Agriculture, as exemplified by the tobacco farms right here in Maryland, leads the way when it comes to positive economic news on the world trade front," Johnson concluded.

The quantity of Maryland tobacco exported for the fiscal 1979 period, according to figures compiled by USDA, was 3486 metric tons which at 2200 pounds per ton, translates into 7,669,200 pounds which is a more familiar measurement to

tobacco growers on the farm.

Maryland tobacco, known all over the world as "Type-32", is the state's oldest exported product, having moved in foreign trade since the state's founding in 1633.

Some 13 foreign countries were listed as destinations for the FY 79 Maryland tobacco shipments: Switzerland, Ecuador, West Germany, Belgium-Luxembourg and the Netherlands being the five leading takers.

Other nations receiving the tobacco during the period were: Panama, the Bahamas, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, France, Australia and New Zealand.

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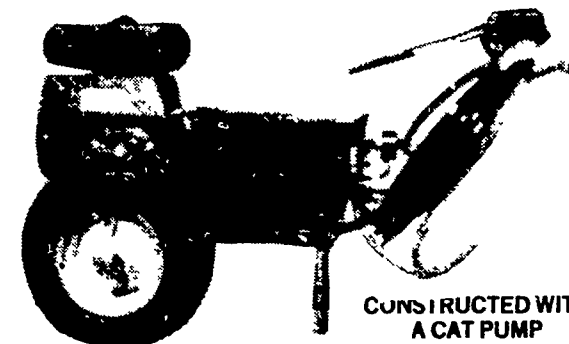
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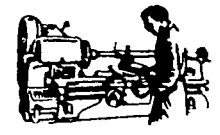
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