

# York County growers reap corn awards

BAIR — York County corn growers again made an impressive showing in the annual Pennsylvania five-acre corn club contest. Awards to competitors were made during last week's corn clinic, held at the 4-H Center.

Top honors went to Merle Orner, Dillsburg R3, whose 188.2 bushels per acre also earned him second place in the statewide shelled grain class. Orner's five acres averaged a plant population of 25,907 and was harvested at a standability of almost 97 percent with 36.8 percent moisture. His winning variety was Pioneer 3184.

Second place was won by Perrydell Farms of York R8 with a yield of 172 bushels of Agway 855X. Tied with that

yield was Dale Fuhrman of Hanover R3, with Doebler's 78X.

Other growers who topped the 160-bushel mark were: Eugene Kilgore, Airville R2, with 169.7 bushels of Agway 898X; Ray Orner, Dillsburg, 168.2 bushels of Pioneer 3184; Donald Meckley, Glenville, 165.5 bushels of Doebler's 70X; Irvin Orner, Dillsburg, with 161.2 bushels of Pioneer 3518; and Ed Rohrbaugh, Seven Valleys R2, 161.1 bushels of Pioneer 3535.

Four of the county's corn croppers took part in a panel session detailing their management of corn acreage. Roger Perry of Perrydell Farms, York R8, noted their efforts to maintain high pH levels so

that fertilizer and chemicals can perform well.

Soil tests are followed carefully because they have run into the problem of too much phosphorus and potassium on some ground, a warning brought out in an earlier presentation by the extension specialists.

No-till planting begins in early April using atrazine and Princep, with Paraquat needed for later plantings. Either Dual or Bladex herbicides are also incorporated into the spray program later in the planting season.

Perry observed that more corn was on the ground this year than usual, but blamed the exceptionally wet weather for that problem.

John Marstellar samples his ground every three years and generally puts 180 pounds of liquid nitrogen on ground not receiving manure, cutting that amount almost in half on fields that have been manured.

Most acreage, except for that with a heavy manure cover, is no-till planted. Weed problems were tackled with a combination of Aatrex and Lasso on some fields,

and with Dual on others.

Weeds were the worst, Marstellar added, in shorter corn where the ground shade was not intense enough.

A type of minimum tillage with some plowing is the planting preparation done by Earl Fuhrman, Hanover R3. But, Fuhrman did plant a few acres in no-till this year and liked it well enough to plan even more this Spring.

He applied 400 pounds of a 30-11-11 and 300 pounds of starter in the row. Steep fertilizer cost increases will force a cutback on those amounts this year, Fuhrman figures, and he may

broadcast less phosphorus and concentrate it in the row instead.

Good weed control resulted from a Lasso and Bladex combination that will be used again. Fuhrman plants this long season varieties in those fields to be chopped for dairy silage, saving the shelling acreage for short season, faster drying types.

Four panelist was Geary Huntsberger, Eitters R1, the county's newest Master Farmer winner. Huntsberger farms several hundred acres of corn in a minimum type of tillage on

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Corn contest winners in York County included, from left, front: Roger Perry, Paul McPherson, Ray Orner, Joe Stump, Donald Meckley and Merle

Orner; back, Earl Fuhrman, Doug Kilgore, John Marstellar, Ed Rohrbaugh and Wilson Nace.

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