

Georgia corn grower breaks state yield record

GIRARD, Ga. — A Burke County farmer has broken the Georgia state corn yield record by more than 40 bushels per acre.

Percy Dixon, Girard, grew 287.6 bushels of corn per acre to break a 247.2 bushels per acre record set in 1979 by Lawrence Williams of Statesboro.

The new record is an average of two outstanding yield checks. Corn harvested on August 19 at 19.3 percent moisture yielded 283.8 bushels per acre when adjusted to 15.5 percent moisture. An August 26 check did even better, a 291.5 bushel per acre adjusted yield.

Dixon's achievement, witnessed by Burke County extension agent W.H. Craven, Jr., is entered in Georgia's 200 Bushel Corn Club annual yield contest. The club, sponsored by the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, will hold an awards banquet in January to honor Georgia farmers who produced more than 200 bushels of corn per acre in 1980.

"I can't imagine anyone achieving better than 287.6 bushels after the hot, dry weather our crops were exposed to this year," says Craven. "Mr. Dixon did an outstanding job in maximizing his yield over a wide acreage."

Dixon, who tills 4,000 acres of corn, soybeans and peanuts, achieved the high yield with Funk's G-4507

"This hybrid is recommended by our extension staff for high yield performance under irrigation and high fertilization," Craven says. "It's one of the leading varieties in Georgia."

Dixon attained a 203-bushel yield with G-4507 in 1979, prompting him to aim for 250 bushels this year, Craven says. The farmer

planted in 38-inch rows, raised the field population to 34,500 plants per acre and increased the amount of fertilizer applied.

Dixon's G-4507 received 251 lbs. of phosphorus, 365 lbs. of nitrogen and 349 lbs. of potash per acre. Phosphorus and lime were fall applied.

"We spread 1,200 lbs. of

basic slag per acre before planting," Dixon explains. A soil test evaluation indicated sufficient micronutrient levels per acre for a good crop.

Dixon harrowed his field three times before subsoiling and planting in one operation. He used 15 gallons of 10-34-0 starter fertilizer per acre at planting, injected enough anhydrous ammonia to supply each acre with 100 lbs. of actual nitrogen, and added nitrogen through irrigation. About 125 lbs. of nitrogen was applied as a sidedress operation when the corn reached knee height.

"We added 0.5 gallons of chelated zinc the same time we sprayed AAtrex at a 1.5

quart per acre rate," Dixon adds. "We also inspected the fields frequently up until harvest to spot any insect or disease problem."

Planted on March 20, the corn pollinated before a 15-day heat wave of over 100 degree temperatures blanketed Georgia. The drought forced Dixon to irrigate eight times, supplying 1.25 inches of water at each irrigation through a center pivot system. The fields also received 4 inches of rainfall.

"The corn looked good right through harvest," Dixon says. "But I never thought it would yield 287.6 bushels. I'm as surprised as anyone."

Make It Yourself With Wool contest coming up

YORK — The District 6 Make It Yourself With Wool competition will be held on Friday, October 10 at Boscov's in the Lebanon Valley Mall. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a fashion show at 8:15 p.m.

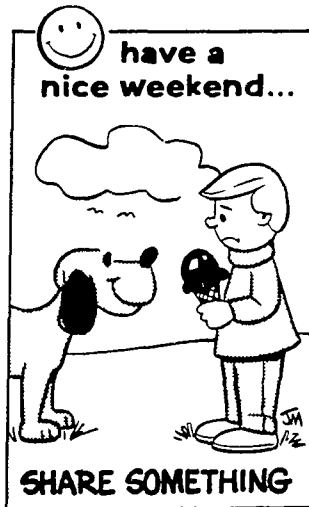
Contestants may enter the following age categories: Pre-teen (10-13); Junior (14-16); Senior (17-24); Adult (Over 24). Professionals in the field of fashion and

sewing are not eligible. Entries may be seen, knitted, or crocheted, but must be a minimum of 60% wool and 40% synthetic fiber.

Entry deadline is October 3, 1980. Contest information and entry forms can be obtained from Karen J. Sandoe, 400 S. Eighth St., Lebanon, PA 17042; 717-274-2801, Extension 349.

The winners of this

district, comprised of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Lancaster, and York Counties, will participate in the state competition to be held October 24-25, 1980 in State College, PA.



Corn design

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Smith. First is the loss in test weight of the kernels — shallow kernels, for example. This loss is hard to see, he comments. The second kind of yield loss, more visible, takes place when plants lodge, and harvesting losses mount.

Wayne Fowler would like to see farmers familiarize themselves with the plant characteristics that affect early drydown and not confuse drydown with "die-down"

He suggests that producers look for fewer husks, and loose, thin husks which open at the top of the ear as the ear matures

He cautions against the risk of leaving any hybrid in the field until it dries down to 15 to 17 percent moisture. "We probably have to use at least some energy to dry corn grain for storage," he says.

"Early season hybrids certainly have a place, and there is nothing wrong with using them when they fit your program," says Crum. "The goal is to plant hybrids that fit each farmer's specific needs"

"A five-day-earlier hybrid can make a big difference in kernel moisture at harvest," he adds, "or in the date at which it can be harvested at a given moisture level"



Some 150 Northern Lebanon Young Farmers and members of their families were present at the August meeting held at the Robert Lentz farm to tour the newly constructed dairy barn and house. Pictured are Larry Grumbine; hired man, Brenda Lentz, Glen Laysen; Hired man, David, Sandy, Robert, Karen Lentz, and Larry Heiston, salesman for Lancaster Silos, who sponsored the refreshments.

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