

Corn growers contest yields more interest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With the 1981 corn harvest underway across the United States, the thoughts of corn producers are traditionally centered on the production potential and quality of this year's crop. However, for hundreds of farmers throughout the country, special attention will be devoted to a single 25 acre area and the final yield this field, or portion of a field, produces.

These farmers are participants in a nationwide yield contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and actively supported by agri-industry companies throughout the United States.

The corn yield contest of the National Corn Growers Association is an annual activity which traditionally attracts large numbers of farmer participants. The contest is open to all members of the National Corn Growers Association and the respective state associations affiliated with the national organization, if such a state association exists. Farmers not presently members of the national association, but interested in participating in the contest, can submit their application for membership at the time they enter the contest.

The 1981 contest attracted well over 1200 participants, a 20 percent increase over the number of 1980 entrants, continuing the steady increase in participation the contest has enjoyed for many years.

The annual corn yield contest was begun for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the implementation of sound production management practices in corn farming operations. In order to obtain maximum yields, such management practices must be applied in the areas of land cultivation and preparation; the application of insecticides, fertilizers, and herbicides; and, methods utilized for weed control.

Although primarily recognizing top yield winners, the contest is currently under review by the NCGA Board of Directors for the possibility of expanding the areas of emphasis in the contest. Such as expansion may possibly include the recognition of those individuals that have successfully reduced input costs in their farming operations, either through the practices mentioned above, or through methods employed in other areas such as energy and soil conservation.

In addition, the NCGA plans to develop a computer system that will provide a greater efficiency of operation to the contest. Besides creating the ability to store information and analyze results on an annual basis, the system would allow for storage of data on yield results, cropping information, precipitation levels, and other factors necessary to determine correlations and their impact on final output. This information would be available exclusively to members of the National Corn Growers Association.

In order to assist in the current review of the contest, the NCGA Board of Directors is presently organizing an Industry Advisory Committee to develop and present recommendations for improvement in the contest. The committee will be comprised of corn farmers, representatives from such agri-industry entities as seed corn distributors, chemical manufacturers, and farm equipment manufacturers, as well as university agricultural officials.

Although a comprehensive list of rules and procedures governs the planting and harvesting of contest fields, the general contest is separated into three divisions for

corn producer participation. The Class AA Non-Irrigated contest comprises the nine states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and North Carolina. The Class A Non-Irrigated contest includes all of the other 39 continental states of the United States. The Irrigated Contest is conducted annually in all states. In all of the divisions, the contest field must be at least 25 acres, but can be larger if the contestant so desires.

The participant may select the best 25 acres in a corn field actually larger than 25 acres and enter this as his (her) contest field. The entrant must obtain as the supervisor of the computations, field measurements, harvesting, weighing and moisture testing, a County Extension Director, FFA Vocational Agriculture Instructor, competitive seed company

representative, or field representative of the Farmers Home Administration, Production Credit Association, or Federal Land Bank. Awards are presented to the first, second and third place winners on both the national and state levels in each of the three divisions at the NCGA Annual Convention — a major attraction at the annual corn farmer gathering.

Although the deadline has passed for participation in the 1981 corn yield contest, interested individuals can contact the offices of the National Corn Growers Association for information about the 1982 contest. This information can be obtained by calling 515/244-1212 or 202/223-6296. Also, correspondence can be directed to the National Corn Growers Association, 510 East Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Adams poultry banquet Nov. 2

GETTYSBURG — H.B. Graves, professor in Penn State Poultry Science Department, will discuss the history and philosophy behind

the animal behavior and animal rights' movement at the Adams County Poultry Appreciation Banquet.

The banquet will be held at the 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 11 at the Cashtown Fire Hall. Tickets for the turkey and oyster dinner are available at the Adams County Extension Service Office for \$5.50 per person tickets, and must be purchased by November 2.

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