

Poor soybean harvest practices throw away profits

NEWARK, Del. — Don't throw away your profits on poor harvest practices.

"Soybean growers can add as much as \$18 per acre to their returns this fall through better harvest management," says Tom Williams, Extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware.

The average grower, he says, loses as much as three bushels per acre through poor harvest management. With today's soybean prices close to \$6 per bushel, there's good monetary incentive for producers to harvest as many beans as possible.

Here are some of Williams' recommendations for a more profitable soybean harvest:

Begin harvesting when soybean seed moisture reaches 14 percent.

Shatter losses increase markedly when moisture levels drop below 11.5 percent.

Harvest at an average combine speed between 2.8 and 3 miles per hour. Combines operate most efficiently at that range — and the cutter bar is allowed to ride down for maximum cut. Row crop headers can be operated up to 5 miles per hour under ideal conditions.

Count lost soybeans already on the ground before harvest; pre-harvest losses should not be charged against combining. Four beans per square foot indicate a bushel lost per acre for large-seeded varieties. Five beans per square foot for small seeded varieties equals one bushel per acre.

Match ground speed to combine

reel speed. Best speed ratio is a reel speed of 1.25 times the combine ground speed. Reel axle 6 to 12 inches ahead of cutter bar.

Cut soybeans as close to the ground as possible. The goal is to

harvest all the pods—even the very lowest. Tests show a 10-percent reduction in harvest losses when soybeans are cut at 2 1/2 inches. Floating and flexible cutter bars substantially reduce this har-

vesting loss.

Measure soybean losses from cutting, gathering, and threshing operations to pinpoint necessary adjustments.

Continually adjust the combine to changing crop conditions.

Forestry office holds open house Nov. 2-6

POTTSTOWN — The Bureau of Forestry of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has announced its District Office near Bucktown will hold a public open house during the week of November 2-6.

The open house is being held in conjunction with the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the formation of the Department of

Environmental Resources. The District Foresters' office is located in Chester County, south of Pottstown along Rt. 23, one quarter mile west of Rt. 100. The office will be open Monday through Friday, except Tuesday, November 3, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The District Office is responsible for forestry activities in a seven county area of southeastern

Pennsylvania. One of their main functions is to provide technical assistance to rural and urban landowners with all phases of woodland management, insect and disease advice, tree planting recommendations, and general tree care. They are also responsible for forest fire suppression, training, and fire prevention and for organizing and administering the cooperative State - County Gypsy Moth Control Program in their district.

The public is welcome to visit the office to find out more about forestry or tree care. For further information, call the office at 215/469-6217.

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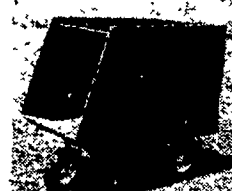
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