

Corn hybrids respond differently to planter fertilizer

NEWARK, Del. — Many farmers are ordering next year's hybrid corn seed now. In making their selections, University of Delaware Extension agronomist William H. Mitchell suggests they consider the results of the latest corn trials at the University's Newark and Georgetown farms. In 1981, emphasis was placed on the response of hybrids to planter

fertilizer. Some of the results were quite promising.

"Response to starter fertilizer, 10-34-0, was especially striking early in the season and most noticeable at Newark," he reports. This was unexpected since planting was delayed until mid-May, at which time soil temperatures were relatively high. "Soil tests showed very high phosphorus levels at

both locations, which again made the response to planter fertilizer surprising, Mitchell says.

Starter fertilizer increased the grain yield of 100-day corn hybrids of 11.5 bushels at Georgetown in corn planted May 14, the only variable being 10 gallons per acre of 10-34-0 placed on the soil surface about one inch from the corn row at planting. Treated corn averaged

117.2 bushels compared to 105.7 bushels for the untreated control.

Though short-season hybrids were most responsive to planter fertilizer, significant yield increases were found with all maturity groups. However, some hybrids appear to benefit more than others from use of planter fertilizer, says the agronomist.

"The evidence is not strong enough to justify fertilizer recommendations tailored to a given hybrid," he says. "But there is a strong suggestion that in our tests for 1981, planter fertilizer was a money maker with some hybrids and not for others." The following comparisons illustrate this point:

	Planter Fert. bu/A	No Fert. bu/A	Diff. bu/A
DeKalb EX72/1	149.3	100.3	49.0
Cargill 969	156.4	122.6	33.8
So. States 737	144.5	118.8	25.7
Pioneer 3382	128.3	125.5	2.8
Jaques JX187A	123.9	125.7	-1.8

Expo canceled

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Swine Sale all three years of the Expo

Two open dates for such sales this coming spring include mid-March and late April. The latter date though would put any such events well into the spring planting season.

Representatives of both groups this week spoke of the possibility of holding sales at the same time, if mutually agreeable dates can be achieved.

Already, another past Expo livestock participant, the Pennsylvania Draft Horse and Mule Association, has scheduled a separate date.

The Association will hold its sale

on February 17. No show is planned this year.

The Pennsylvania Tractor Pullers Association was another past participant. The Pullers are also considering competition in the spring for the more farm-type tractors, but no date has been set.

The cancellation of the Farm Equipment Expo came as no real surprise to many. The future of the event has been in doubt since its initial effort and last March's version drove the final nail in the coffin.

In 1979, the first Expo had 188 exhibitors. In its second year, exhibitor attendance slipped only a little to 177.

But this past March, the number of exhibitors fell drastically to 128 -

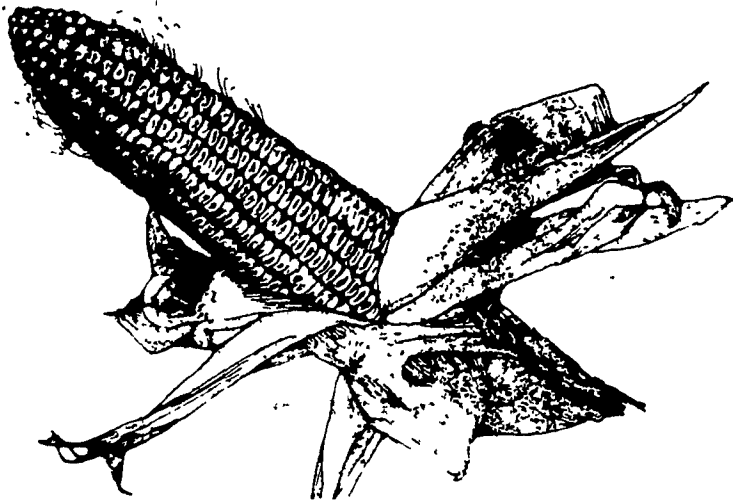
down nearly one-third from the previous two events.

In addition to the closeness to Farm Show and the current state of the economy, the Equipment Expo was launched during a different administration.

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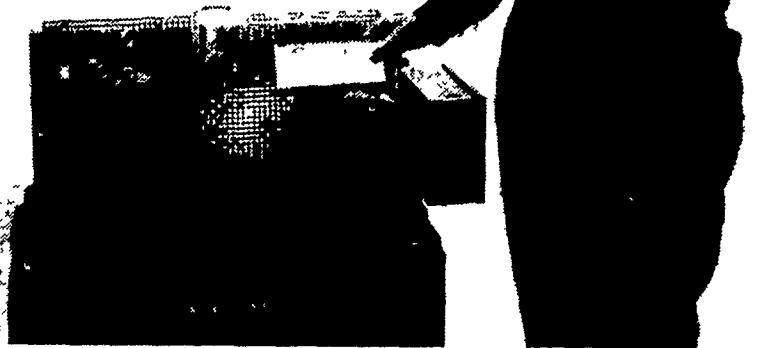
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