

# World-record corn grower still harvests eye-opening yields

SCHOOLCRAFT, Mich. — Roy Lynn, Jr., the Schoolcraft, Michigan, farmer who set the world corn yield record in 1977, harvested a 260-bushel per acre yield this fall.

Lynn's yield was considerably less than his record-breaking 352 bushels, but still a respectable yield in anyone's book. He said he wasn't expecting to harvest much more than 200 bushels per acre this fall.

Lynn has abandoned trying to achieve super-high yields, but he's applied the lessons he learned breaking the record to the year-in, year-out business of corn growing.

Whereas the yield record came after a concerted effort and three

years of trial and error, Lynn's big harvest this fall resulted from his usual corn production practices.

Lynn's 260-bushel yield came from a one-acre check where the soil is considerably heavier than the field where he got the record in 1977. The heavier, clay-like ground tends to limit corn's ability to produce to the fullest.

"This black soil doesn't breathe as easily as the sandy soil where we harvested the record yield," Lynn said. The 32-year-old farmer sold the land where he set the record, opting to devote more time to raising 1,800 head of market hogs per year.

Lynn planted DeKalb XL-55a on May 2, at a rate of 32,000 seeds per

acre. Before planting, he applied some nitrogen, potash and phosphate, plowed and then leveled the field with a wheel drag.

He used atrazine and Lasso at planting for weed control and Furadan to keep insects in check.

As with the world record yield, Lynn applied the majority of the crop's nitrogen through an irrigation system.

Says Lynn, "If you put all the nitrogen out at the same time, it leaches, especially if there's heavy rainfall. By putting the fertilizer on gradually through the irrigation system, the plants can better utilize the nitrogen."

All told, 283 actual pounds of nitrogen per acre, 80 pounds of phosphate and 136 pounds of potash constitute the fertility program.

The weather, always an unpredictable variable in corn production, played into Lynn's hand this year.

"1981 was almost a perfect year for irrigated corn growing," he noted. "It was hot and there were a lot of clear days that gave the crop all the sun it needed to produce."

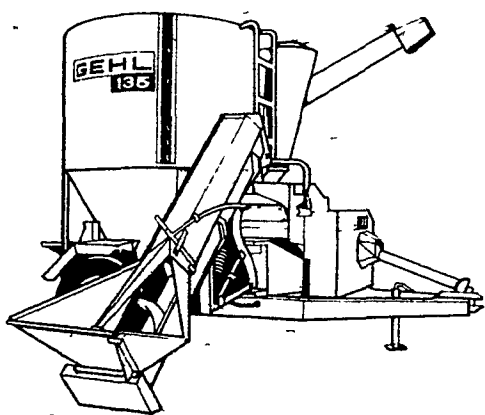
Still, he said he didn't expect 260 bushels per acre. "I was hoping to get more than 200 bushels," Lynn said, "But I wasn't looking for anything spectacular."

The 25-acre field where the 260 bushel yield was taken also produced a 230-bushel check and averaged 192 bushels per acre over the entire acreage.

At harvest time in October, Lynn noted that the crop was standing well, a must when corn is planted at high population. "XL-55a stood like a tree," he said. "And the ears were high off the ground which helps us keep the combine head up off the rocky ground we farm."

For next year, Lynn plans to keep his corn production mostly unchanged. "I'm going to keep about the same system," he said. With Lynn's track record, who would argue?

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Francis Laurin of Chazy, New York, the President of Allied said "we are pleased to have the addition of York and Associates to help assure our cooperative

membership the kind of services necessary in today's complicated dairy industry of the northeast and Washington, D.C. Mr. John York who heads up his firm is an experienced and respected dairy leader and will bring strength to our organization."

Allied member cooperatives market approximately ¾ billion pounds of milk annually from dairy farms located in Central and Northern New York. The milk is utilized for Fluid and Manufacturing uses and is all priced under the terms and provisions of Federal Milk Order 2, New York-New Jersey and Federal Order 1 of New England.

York and Associates maintain offices in Lewisburg and Washington, D.C. They are a consulting group who provide professional services dealing with government regulatory programs, legislative and milk hearing representation, milk supply contract developments, commodity price evaluation, and market trends.

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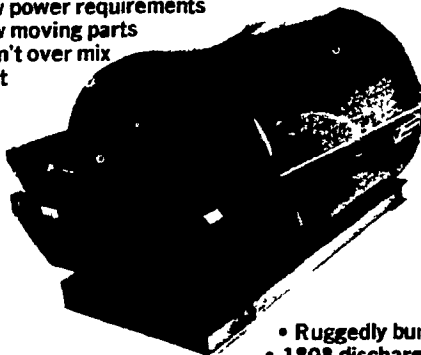
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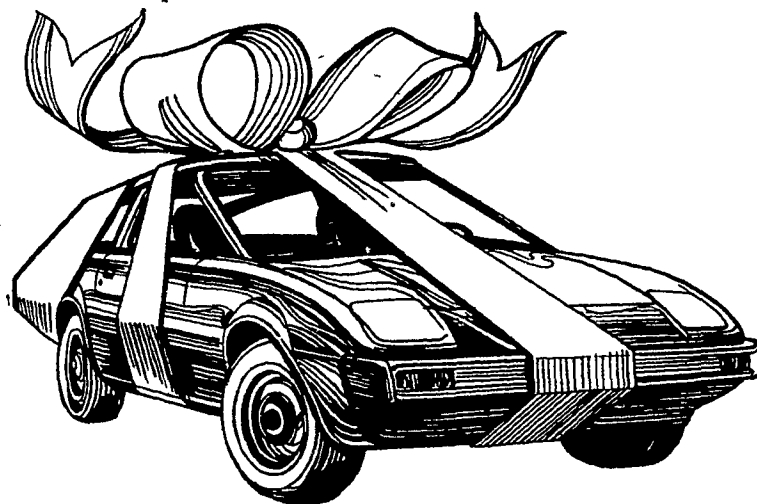
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