

Md.'s best soybean yield tops 69 bushels

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Once again, Talbot county farmers have established that the land between the Choptank and Wye rivers on Maryland's central Eastern Shore is a great place to grow soybeans—even without irrigation.

For the third time in the last four years, a Talbot county grower has been named Maryland soybean yield champion. And the first four over-all placings in the 1982 official state yield contest went to Talbot County farmers. Three years earlier, Talbot county growers captured five of the top 10 placings.

George C. Towers, Denton, is the 1982 soybean champion with a near-record yield of 69.4 bushels per acre. He had tied for the state championship in 1972 with 53.7 bushels per acre.

Towers was honored at Easton during the seventy-sixth annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association. He is a Caroline county resident with farming operations in Talbot county.

Gustav A. Schlag of Wittman was runnerup in the over-all state standings with a yield of 68.0 bushels per acre. Both Schlag and Towers had full-season Essex soybeans planted in 38-inch rows with conventional tillage on non-irrigated land.

Wesley R. Brown of Easton placed third over-all with 67.8 bushels per acre of York soybeans in 18-inch rows. He was first in the state contest category for non-irrigated, no-till soybeans.

Patricia Councell, an FFA member at Easton senior high school, placed fourth in the over-all

standings with a yield of 67.5 bushels per acre. She had non-irrigated, no-till Essex soybeans in 18-inch rows. Miss Councell is the reigning Talbot county Farm Queen.

Fifth-place over-all went to Arthur W. Lankford, Jr., of Pocomoke City, Somerset county, with a yield of 65.3 bushels per acre. Lankford had planted Union soybeans in 7-inch rows. He was named state winner in the category for irrigated soybeans grown under minimum or conventional tillage.

Last year, Lankford was state winner in the irrigated, no-till category. That also involved Union soybeans in 7-inch rows. The yield was 62.2 bushels per acre.

Sixth through tenth placings in the 1982 state soybean yield contest were as follows:

6. John H. Brown of Goldsboro, Caroline County, 64.1 bushels per acre;

7. Hutchison Brothers of Cordova, Talbot County, 61.4;

8. J. Ronnie Steenken of Fowling Creek Farms at Harmony, Caroline County, 61.3

9. James G. Saathoff of Ridgely, Caroline County, 61.1

10. Maurice E. Collins and son of Easton, Talbot County, 60.8

Collins won the state soybean contest in 1979 with a yield of 62.2 bushels per acre.

Saathoff was 1982 state winner in the category for irrigated, no-till soybeans.

Average yield for the top 10 contestants in the 1982 Maryland soybean contest was 64.7 bushels per acre. This is more than 2.2 times last year's average state

yield of 29 bushels per acre, as reported by the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service. Maryland's official yield record

for soybeans (69.8 bushels per acre) was set in 1976 by Dale Reagan of Federalsburg (Caroline county) with irrigated Williams

soybeans. The official statewide corn and soybean yield contests have been conducted each year since 1952 as part of the crop improvement programs of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service. Yield measurements are supervised by Extension agricultural agents in participating counties.

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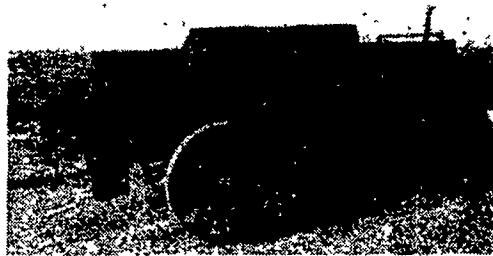
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