

Selecting soybean variety involves many criteria

DEKALB, II.— Growers often select the new soybean varieties they want to plant solely on yield data from influential test plots. As a result, these varieties sometimes fail to perform as well as expected. While selecting a variety with a high yield potential is important, making it work for your management situation may also depend upon other characteristics.

Maturity is one of these items for consideration. Soybeans are photoperiod sensitive, which means flowering is triggered by the length of the nights. Therefore, attempts to stagger the harvest date of a particular variety by staggering the planting date will not be effective. Spreading maturity and influencing when a field is ready for harvest can best

be done by planting varieties of different maturities. A full season variety should be selected as well as others that will mature four days to one week earlier. Timely harvesting of soybeans can result in two to six bushels per acre better yields. Two or three bushels can be lost by selling 9% moisture soybeans to a buyer paying on 13% moisture basis. The remainder of the loss can come from shattering or other weather-related problems.

Emergence characteristics should be a vital consideration for some people.

If you spring plow, especially marginal soils, you'll benefit from the use of top emerging soybeans. Planters providing poor depth control and poor seed-to-soil contact will amplify the importance. Fields with risk of herbicide carryover, crusting, or

late planting will also draw attention to top emergence capability.

Lodging may be an annoying problem particularly for growers with irrigation, high fertility levels, or nitrogen carryover. If a field is rocky or uneven from improper tillage, lodging complicates harvest. A row-crop type combine head can help minimize the loss. Keeping the plant population at proper levels by precision planting of high quality seed also helps.

Several additional variety characteristics are very critical for some growers. Phytophthora rot ratings should be considered where there is a history of this disease or where soils are heavy and poorly drained. An excessively high calcium base saturation or low availability of iron requires soybean varieties with tolerance to

iron chlorosis. Plant type and height are important for the grower using wide row spacing. Short or thin plant types do not canopy the ground properly.

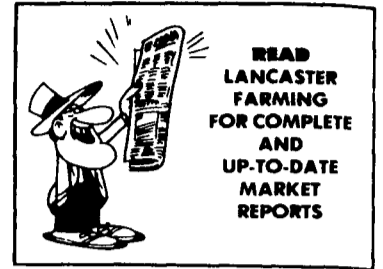
It is well known that yield is important. A wise soybean grower will also pay attention to varietal characteristics important to his type of management.

Attends DeLaval course



Mike Purdue, of J.B. Zimmerman & Sons, Blue Ball, recently attended the DeLaval Agri-Systems Academy to take part in a comprehensive course in the Basic Milking System. The course included in-depth classroom instruction and hands-on training with various DeLaval equipment.

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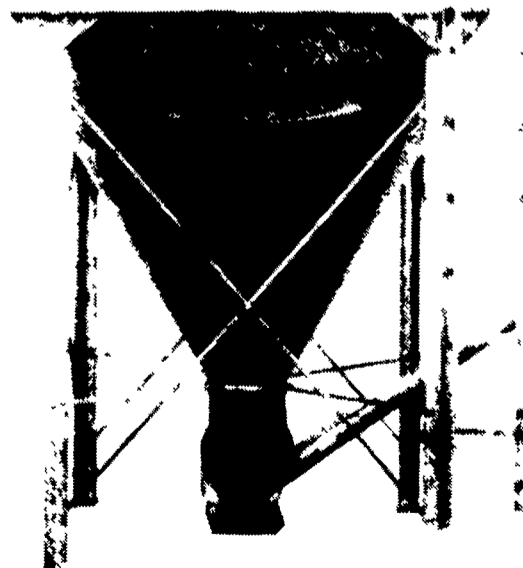


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