

Please pass the worms

Corn marketing strategy outlined

NEWARK, Del. — "Delaware farmers are facing some tough marketing decisions right now," says University of Delaware extension marketing specialist Carl German. "There's the tight supply picture for the 1983 corn crop, as well as the potential of a very large 1984 crop which would increase supplies at harvest."

Corn farmers must decide whether to sell the rest of their 1983 crop now or continue holding it in hopes of obtaining higher prices. They must also decide how to price their 1984 crop, which isn't even in the ground yet.

"Many grain analysts seem to agree about these decisions," German says. "They're bullish on the price trend for the old crop and somewhat bearish on the new crop price. Old crop corn is in rather short supply, indicating higher prices to come, while abundant stocks of new crop corn would suggest prices declining from current levels."

Based on this scenario, German recommends that farmers continue to hold 1983 corn until early or midsummer. "That's when we would expect prices for the old crop to rebound about as much as they're going to, possibly returning to last fall's harvest price level," he says. "As for the 1984 crop, it's basically a wait-and-see game. Wait, that is, and see how the crop develops and how much the bullish old crop corn price tends to support the new crop price."

Price improvement for the new crop stemming from the current short supply situation is likely to be shortlived, the economist predicts. News that U.S. farmers will likely plant 80 million acres of corn this year will start to take its toll as the crop begins to develop, he says. Therefore, where possible producers should take advantage of opportunities to price a portion of their new crop above \$3 a bushel.

When it's not possible to advance profitable sales, German suggests farmers consider lining up sufficient storage space. "Exactly

when the most opportune time may occur to advance further grain sales will depend largely on weather and other developments over the next few months. If it appears the 1984 cropping season will be very good, around 8 billion bushels for U.S. corn production, prices could decline much sooner than expected," he says. "Of

course, an average or below average season — 7 billion bushels or less — will be good for prices and farmers looking for pricing opportunities."

Based on the USDA Prospective Plantings Report, farmers in Delaware and neighboring areas have reported the following corn planting intentions for 1984:

State	1983 Planted	1984 Intended
	-1,000 acres-	
Delaware	155	165
Maryland	650	705
Virginia	610	740

Adams planning approved

HARRISBURG — The Rock Creek Watershed in Adams County has been approved for planning. The authorization was announced by James H. Olson, State conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Harrisburg, who said the program would mean additional funds for area farmers for soil and water conservation.

The Rock Creek Watershed includes 40,000 acres which is all agricultural land except the Borough of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg National Park. Twenty-nine percent of the watershed is prime farmland and 37 percent is classed as farmland of statewide importance.

There are over 200 farms in the watershed. A total of 191 farmers are cooperators in the Adams County Conservation District Program. Of this number, 121 farmers have prepared plans to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

The watershed was identified in the State 208 Water Quality Plan as having the third highest potential for nonpoint pollution. Potential problem areas are (1) high erosion rates, (2) high livestock concentrations and manure disposal problems, and (3) pesticide container and residue disposal.

Olson pointed out that the watershed plan is being prepared

under the "Land Treatment" portion of Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Goals of the project are (1) to reduce erosion to less than five tons per acre annually on 75% of the cropland and to reduce animal waste pollutants reaching Rock Creek by 75%. Olson said this would be accomplished by accelerating cost-share funds for land users to install conservation practices by giving a high priority to the watershed for SCS technical help and by carrying out an aggressive information program.

"This could mean over \$1 million to help watershed farmers over a 15-year period," added Olson. Fifteen Adams County and statewide organizations, agencies, and units of government supported the efforts to obtain this program for the Rock Creek Watershed.



Spied along the Pa. Turnpike last weekend, these two young anglers remained tight-lipped when questioned about their choice of bait. With trout season opening today, we suspect the fellows had their limit long before the opening bell sounded.

Club lamb sale slated

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — Five central Maryland sheep breeders are sponsoring a workshop for 4-H club lamb participants in conjunction with the Touch of Class Club Lamb Sale on Sunday, April 29. The Howard County Fairgrounds near West Friendship will be the scene of both the workshop and the sale.

At 1 p.m. a representative from

the Maryland State Department of Agriculture will present a program on lamb health to help 4-Hers plan for the care of their club lamb. The sale of 50 top wether and ewe lambs will begin at 2:30 p.m.

All sale animals will be at the fairgrounds available for inspection by noon on the 29th. The lambs will be acclimated to grain

and in good health having had the normal inoculations.

The consignors to the Touch of Class Sale are Jeff and Greg Hevner, Johnsville, and Mary Rauschenberg, Woodbine, with Suffolks; Hope's Hampshires, Knoxville, and Robert Dinsmore, Jefferson, with Hampshires; and Ben-Har Farms, Woodbine, with Suffolk-Hampshire crossbreds.

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	99.7	97.5	95.9	94.5	93.2	90.3	90.0	90.0	87.8	87.1	79.7	
	INSIDE TEMPERATURE °F											
CEM-PAD 2"	85.5	79.2	79.4	80.6	78.2	83.1	80.6	75.6	76.5	76.6	75.6	91.3%
NEW ASPEN 1"	-	80.2	80.3	-	-	-	82.2	-	-	77.5	-	87.3%
CARDBOARD 6"	87.2	-	-	82.8	80.7	84.4	-	76.9	78.1	-	76.7	83.0%
CARDBOARD 4"	89.5	-	81.2	83.5	82.0	85.4	83.5	80.6	78.8	78.8	76.9	78.6%
HOG HAIR 1"	-	93.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.1%

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