

Seed quality check needed this year

DeKALB, Il. — Germination and vigor of some seed being offered to farmers this spring is below normal expectations. Here's where you must rely on your suppliers' name and reputation for seed quality. Such a supplier will probably be utilizing a number of different tests in order to be sure that only good seed is sold. This will include repeated standard germination tests plus thorough screening by some sort of a vigor evaluation, such as a cold soil germination test.

All the testing in the world means little to the farmer unless suppliers are willing to set up strict internal standards and then stick with them. Seedsmen who do this are indicating a long-term commitment to customer satisfaction.

Seed produced under drought stress is perfectly satisfactory for planting if the seedsmen kept the interests of his customers foremost in his thinking. Quality assurance is important to most, but not all, seed suppliers. Customers should consider this in making their final seed selections.

As a result of drought production conditions, 1983 seed is generally not quite as large and may average slightly lower germinating than usual because of nutrient supply limitations to some kernels. For these reasons, the quality control exercised by your seed supplier is more than ever.

Sizing of corn seed to attain uniform plantability is a mechanical operation. If strict sizing standards were adhered to, your supplier probably has a higher proportion of seed in the smaller sizes this year. There is no reason to avoid these smaller seeds — in fact they are often good buys — but you should plan to be especially careful about planter repair, maintenance, and adjustment. Plant them right and they'll perform right.

Seed produced under stress growing conditions has the same genetic-based performance potential as seed grown in an ideal



Many farmers found too many ears of corn last year like the one on the left due to drought stress. With a record area corn crop planned for this year, a bumper crop of ears like those on the right are being sought by dairy and livestock feeders.

environment. The yield performance potential of a plant growing from one of these seeds is as good as ever. That's the consensus of DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics research and seed operations people quizzed recently regarding what farmers should expect from seed they'll be planting this spring.

Heat and drought stress upsets the normal uptake and in-plant transport of nutrients, depriving plants of the amounts required for full vegetative growth and/or

kernel development. Depending on when the stress occurs, plants have some ability to respond by altering their growth pattern. They will abort kernels already forming, limiting the remaining number to be filled in an attempt to balance nutrient need with supply. Late in the season, corn plants have been shown to withdraw sugars from the stalk to fill kernels — enabling them to complete development of most remaining kernels, but at the expense of stalk strength.

Du Pont names Molz

WILMINGTON, Del. — Robert J. Molz has been named assistant director of research and development for the Du Pont Company's Agricultural Chemicals Department. In this newly created position, Molz will have general responsibility for research administration and operations and will report to Klaus A. Saegbarth, research and development director.

Molz joined Du Pont in 1969 as a research biochemist in the Photo Products Department. In 1972, he was named technical services

supervisor, aca' division, and a year later was promoted to product manager for 'aca' test packs. In 1975, he became quality assurance manager in the Clinical Systems Division. Prior to his most recent move, he was manager of research and development for clinical and instrument systems in the Biomedical Products Department.

Yule bull enters sampling

SHAWANO, Wi. — A Holstein calf, acquired from Richard Yule, Millville, is now available for sampling from Midwest Breeders Cooperative.

The newest offering from the full-service cattle breeding cooperative is 21H873 Yules-Pride Tradition Art-ET. Art is a son of Sweet-Haven Tradition.

Combined with his maternal grandsire, Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief, Art has a Pedigree Index of +932 M, +26 F, +\$104 and a Genetic Index of +1068 M, +31 F, +\$121.

Art's dam is Yules-Pride Arlinda Apple, VG-85. She has a current Cow Index of +482 M, +30 F, +\$82.

As a two-year-old, she had a 365-day lactation of 18,960 pounds of milk, 654 pounds of butterfat and a 3.4 percent fat test.

Art is now housed at the Midwest Breeders' young sire housing facility in Stewartville, Mn. He is one of about 100 high genetic potential young sires sampled each year in the Shawano, Wi.-based cooperative's program.

The program offers incentive payments, including a bonus for producers on protein test, to qualified users of junior sire semen. The program allows Midwest to increase the number of young sires sampled and makes sampling more efficient.

AEC employes honored

GETTYSBURG — Twenty Adams Electric Cooperative (AEC) employees were recognized for their safe working practices by the cooperative at AEC's Annual Safety Awards Breakfast held at the Stonehenge Restaurant, Gettysburg, April 11.

Adams Electric Cooperative provides a safety continuing education program for all employees. This program has received several awards in recognition of the cooperative's accomplishments in accident prevention and its dedication to the training and welfare of its employees.

The purpose of this program, according to Charles L. Overman, AEC's general manager, is to instill a growing knowledge of and respect for safe working conditions and practices. Overman said, "Adams Electric provides these job training and education programs to enable employees to work safely and develop their

skills and abilities within the limits of individual potential while making a contribution to the cooperative and assuming positions of greater responsibility."

Employees recognized for their safety records include:

Five Years- Marcia L. Staub and Scott A. Wehler.

Ten Years- Glen E. Blocher, Dawn L. Bodenberg, Donald L. Caudill, Fern A. Hess, William E. Myers, Rex A. McRoberts and Philip G. Tate.

Fifteen Years- Thomas I. Flynn and Chester H. Waltemyer.

Twenty Years- Edward J. Althoff, Caroline E. Baral, Walter J. Chrismer and Autry T. Nunamaker.

Twenty-Five Years- Leslie J. Pomeroy.

Thirty Years- Fred J. Kane, J. Wayne Kump and Charles A. Rosensteel.

Thirty-Five Years- Donald G. Hubbard.

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