

# More crop data available

DE KALB, II. — The 1984 Field Analysis Comparison Trials (FACT) conducted in more than 1,260 locations will offer more information on DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics hybrids and varieties. More planting information will be added to the existing harvest reports edited by DeKalb-Pfizer regional agronomists.

"We have redesigned some of the FACT information forms and developed a new planting report to supplement the harvest data. This will give farmers more data on the management of hybrids and varieties tested in FACT plots," says Dick Bohling, director of agronomic field services for DeKalb-Pfizer and administrator of the program.

**New planting data**  
The planting variables to be monitored in the FACT plots include: the type of planter, previous crop, tillage type, soil type, pesticide application, speed and depth of planting, current soil fertility status, planting date, row width and the amount of nutrients applied.

"We also will collect some information on manure application," Bohling says. The cooperators handling the FACT plot will estimate the gallons or tons of manure applied per acre.

With the increased data collected, producers will have more information to use as guidelines in making their management decisions. "We plan

to develop general recommendations such as planting date and specific recommendations, including planting rate, for each experimental evaluated in the plots," Bohling explains.

**Harvest report data**

All of the new planting report information will be added to the existing harvest report. The harvest report includes data on insect problems that occurred during the growing season, the number of cultivations, irrigation and additional nutrient applications.

The entire program will be coded onto a computer in the main office in DeKalb, Illinois. Each DeKalb-Pfizer regional agronomist has a portable computer terminal through which he can access management information on any FACT plot.

For example, a dealer could request a comparison of the important data on several experimental vs. leading commercial in the area. "The dealer would contact the regional agronomist, who could run a printout of that information," Bohling says.

It is up to each cooperator in the FACT program to determine the type of practices used when growing the crop. "We give no specific recommendations on how the plot should be planted," Bohling says. "Generally, cooperators use the most common

practices that are best suited for their area."

**More FACT locations**

In 1984, corn will be evaluated in approximately 800 FACT locations throughout the United States; soybeans at 275 plots, sorghum will be tested at 150 sites and sunflowers at 35. Each FACT plot contains approximately eight

commercial hybrids or varieties and between three and seven experimentals.

Bohling stresses the importance of the FACT program as the final testing ground for experimentals before they reach the marketplace. "Testing is conducted prior to the release of new seed products, so farmers don't have to

do costly experimenting on their own farms," he says.

"We're extremely pleased with these new advances in the FACT program," Bohling adds. "This unique collection of management information definitely will benefit farmers in developing crop management programs."

## Third Western Pa. Pork Field Day held

BY BARBARA RADER  
Staff Correspondent

NEW CASTLE — About 140 pork producers from Pennsylvania and Ohio attended the third Western Pa. Pork Field Day at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds on June 9. Approximately 50 commercial exhibitors also attended the event, which, beginning this year, will be held at different locations each year throughout the western portion of the state.

Patterned after the Keystone Pork Congress held in February, the field day began with registration at 9 a.m., followed by a trade show and guest speaker presentations before the noon pork barbecue.

Mercer County extension agent Les Firth spoke on swine record keeping, and Dr. Matthew Parsons, swine production consultant from Hadley, Massachusetts, presented his program on swine waste handling.

Dave Cieslak, manager of Cargill Research Farm in Elk River, Minnesota, and Dr. William R. Henning, Penn State extension meat specialist, each presented programs during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Cieslak's topics included baby pig management and care, as well as market hog management.

Dr. Henning utilized two carcasses to demonstrate the proper way to evaluate pork carcass quality and yield. He also spoke on the subject of pork promotion.

A demonstration on live sonar grading of market hogs was also featured. Thompson's Hog Farm supplied four Yorkshire pigs for the demonstration which showed how to assess the loin eye area and back fat thickness utilizing sonar.

Also scheduled during the field day was a meeting of the Lawrence County Porky Pig 4-H Club. Club leader Janet Dean of New Castle requested that each

member attend a demonstration during the day. John Lamb from the county's sheep club provided instruction on grading using the pigs donated by Thompson's Farm. A grading competition was held, with prizes to be awarded at the next 4-H club meeting.

Heading up the event's planning committee were Donald Fretts of Scottdale, and Wendell McKissick of New Wilmington, along with assistance from the county agriculture extension office.



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