

## Tillage system

(Continued from Page D6)

The corn breeder selected 30 hybrids ranging from early to full season varieties. They were then grouped into two categories, cold tolerant and non-cold tolerant. All were observed from late April planting to harvest.

"The only difference in the hybrids appeared to be emergence," Funnemark says. In conservation tillage, hybrids emerged earlier and there were fewer days after planting to silk and pollen shed. Hybrid moisture was slightly less for cold tolerant hybrids, he adds. But any differences in yields were insignificant.

"If I were going to make a switch to conservation tillage, I'd plant a cold tolerant variety with good early growth," he says. "But first of all, I'd go with the hybrid that performed the best for me in conventional tillage. The best hybrid in conventional tillage will

be the best one in conservation tillage."

Continuing research at several Funk research stations is attempting to single out that all-round variety. Near Marion, Iowa, research scientist Bob Miller is evaluating advanced testing material and commercial hybrids for yield, standability, moisture and cold tolerance. Five separate plots consist of no-till corn in soybean stubble, corn in single-tilled soybean stubble and three conventionally tilled plots.

Standard applications of P and K were applied according to soil test recommendations and enough N was applied in a split-application for a 200 bu/acre yield goal. Corn was planted in early May with populations averaging 28,000 plants/acre. Bicep applied after planting and a late June cultivation controlled weeds.

"We're looking for a hybrid that does well under all conditions,"

says Miller. "We'd like to have a variety that works well whether you no-till or use conventional tillage."

Miller's research is zeroing in on basic traits of that kind of hybrid. This means breeding for good disease resistance, early emergence, good germination in cooler soils, and stable yielding varieties that produce under different plant densities.

"We are doing more disease and insect research than we used to," he says. "And we're growing more material the way it's grown in the field."

"You can breed for good cold test, which we've done, but we haven't done as much in the field. When you're out there, you've got the interaction of all environmental factors — seedbed, soil, disease organisms, temperature, moisture and plant densities. As breeders, we're constantly fighting for good weed control. But you can't breed for resistance to weeds. Your best control is good early plant growth."

## Annual meeting set by Agway

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Several thousand farmers and guests will attend the 20th anniversary meeting of Agway Inc. Oct. 25-26 at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse, N.Y.

Featured will be reports by Richard Croner, chairman of the board of directors, and William A. Hiller, president and chief executive officer. Six farmers will be elected by the members present to three-year terms on the 18-member Agway board of directors. Members will have an opportunity to attend a seminar and to see the latest application of high tech to agriculture, at the Agway farm show.

Early, strong emergence is one characteristic breeders and growers look for in any hybrid, whether it's for plowed or unworked ground. Research must continue to focus on this genetic advantage which would be most beneficial to all growers.

A seminar on modern information systems for improved farm management decisions will be held Thursday morning, Oct. 25 at the Hotel Syracuse. Agway experts representing every facet of information systems and farm management will make presentations and answer questions about primary information handling systems and Agway farm information services, including farm computer systems, videotex and other new developments.

Farmers visiting the popular Agway farm show in the lower level of the War Memorial will learn about new dairy feeds, on-farm computers, integrated crop management (ICM) programs, new crop varieties, bio-gas units, and other products and services designed specifically for Northeast farmers.

A display of antique farm equipment will contrast sharply with the latest in modern farm techniques.

## U.S., Japan in ag talks

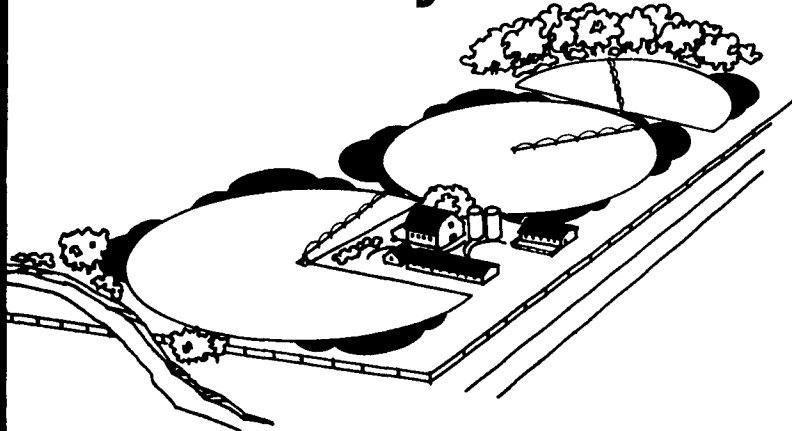
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives of Japan and the United States issued the following joint statement at the close of recent agricultural consultations.

The delegations discussed the outlook for supply and demand of agricultural commodities that figure in trade between the two countries — primarily feed grains, soybeans and wheat. The Japanese side reported on the outlook for wheat, feed grain and soybean imports and explained its domestic supply and demand situation for rice.

The Japanese requested that the United States continue to provide stable supply of wheat, feed grains and soybeans to meet Japanese needs during the coming year and expressed their intention to be a stable and growing market for U.S. agricultural exports.

The United States expressed its appreciation for the important role played by agricultural trade between Japan and the United States, and confirmed its commitment to meet Japan's import needs for the coming year. Furthermore, the United States emphasized strongly that there will be no export restrictions on grains and soybeans.

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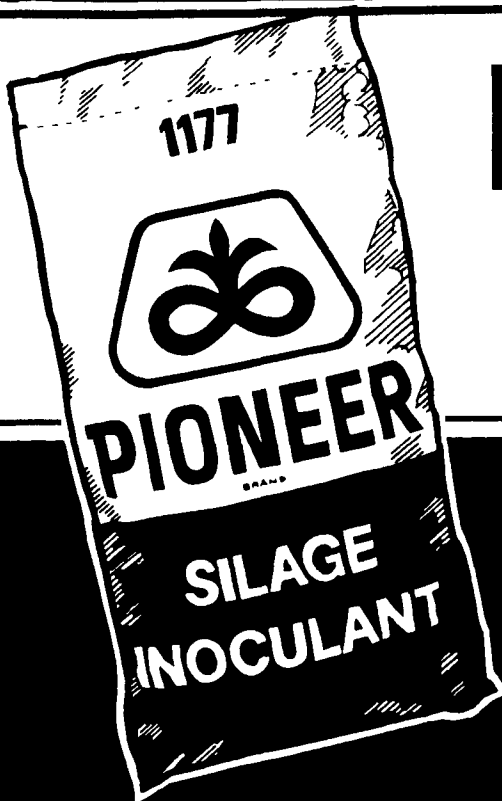
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