

Researchers attain record crop yield

ATLANTA, Ga. — As recently as five years ago, talk of 300 bushel per acre corn yields, 100 bushel per acre soybeans, and 150 bushel per acre wheat met with some doubt in much of the agricultural community.

However, a forward-looking concept known as maximum yield research (MYR) has begun to show that higher yields are not only attainable, but they also provide needed information to determine maximum economic yields for the farmer.

For example, Dr. Roy Flannery of New Jersey harvested 309 bu/A corn and 103 bu/A soybeans from his 1984 research plots. His five-year average yields from the maximum yield study are 307 bu/A for corn and 104 bu/A for soybeans.

In Ontario, Canada, researcher Ken Stevenson of Ridgeway

College of Agricultural Technology recorded a 1984 corn yield of 257 bu/A, the highest corn yield ever in Canadian research. His average of 244 bu/A for non-irrigated corn over the past three years is considered the highest such average from research in North America.

Wheat yields over 100 bu/A are becoming commonplace in research. In 15 maximum yield experiments - some for as long as four years - yields have been reported 42 times. Twenty-five of those have been over 100 bu/A.

The highest yield of wheat reported in the West was 182 bu/A in Oregon and in the East 140 bu/A from Virginia. Yields of 118 bu/A were reported from Texas and 100 bu/A from Wyoming, both under irrigation. Dryland yields of 94 bu/A were reported in Kansas and 63 bu/A from North Dakota.

"As these high-yield systems are refined and adapted for use on farms, the goal will be maximum economic yields for the growers," explains Dr. Charles P. Ellington, Vice President and Director of the Foundation for Agronomic Research. "After researchers determine yields that are attainable for various conditions,

producers will have more information available to guide them toward higher profits."

FAR research grants, made possible by industry contributions, have encouraged many researchers to try new approaches. FAR is now contributing to 65 research projects in the U.S., Canada, China, and other countries.

The increased emphasis on MYR coincided with the establishment of the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR) in 1980. The Foundation is affiliated with the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and draws support from diverse agricultural industries to help support multidisciplinary research.

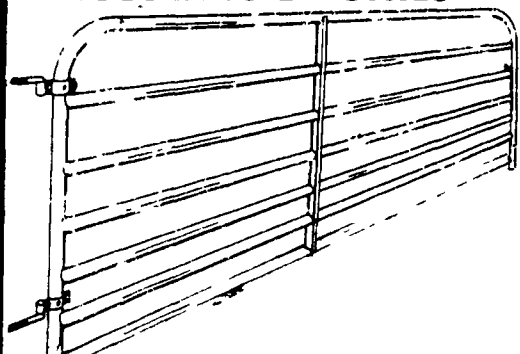
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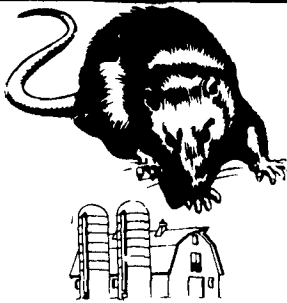
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