

Maryland honors record '84 crop production

The Maryland Crop Improvement Association saluted last year's new state yield records for both corn and soybean production under non-irrigated conditions during its 78th annual meeting in the Tidewater Inn at Easton.

But the over-all corn yield winner—for the fourth consecutive year—is an irrigation farmer from Caroline County, on Maryland's central Eastern Shore. The perennial champion is William G. Greenage, operator of Beechwood Farms at Preston.

Greenage's winning 1984 yield was 215.78 bushels per acre. He had state champion yields at 227.87 and 227.47 bushels per acre in 1983 and 1982, respectively. His 1981 winning mark of 244.8 bushels per acre still stands as the all-time Maryland record.

Greenage planted last year's championship field on April 13, using DeKalb 789 hybrid corn at a final field population of 27,000 plants per acre. As in the previous year, he used a center pivot irrigation system to apply 12 inches of water during the growing season.

His son, Billy Greenage of Preston, placed third in the over-all state corn yield results for 1984 with 207.18 bushels per acre. The younger Greenage planted DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn at a final population of 22,500 plants per acre. All other management factors were the same as those used by his father.

Edward Hancock of Snow Hill (Worcester County) was runnerup in the over-all Maryland corn yield results last year with 212.11 bushels per acre, using a Pioneer hybrid variety.

His achievement broke the previous state record of 207.59 bushels per acre for corn grown under non-irrigated conditions. The old mark had stood since 1965. It was set by a Talbot County farm partnership.

Another Worcester County farmer, Oliver J. Smith, Jr., of Bishopville, placed fourth in the 1984 over-all Maryland corn yield contest with 205.369 bushels of corn per acre. He used DeKalb XL 61 hybrid under non-irrigated cropping conditions.

The Taylor brothers of Preston (Caroline County) applied six tons

of poultry manure per acre to place fifth in the standings with 204.54 bushels per acre of irrigated corn. They planted Pioneer 3320 on April 13. The brothers had placed third in the 1983 state contest with an irrigated yield of 204.81 bushels per acre.

Balvin B. Brinsfield, Jr., of Reids Grove (Dorchester County) moved up to sixth place in the 1984 over-all Maryland corn yield placings with 204.2 bushels per acre, using an Agway hybrid variety. He received a plaque from the Chevron Chemical Company for placing first in the state among no-till growers using irrigation. In 1983 he had placed 15th in the state corn contest with a yield of 182.22 bushels per acre.

Another Dorchester County farmer, Dennis A. Ke' or Brookview, placed seventh in last year's over-all Maryland corn yield standings with 202.6 bushels per acre on no-till, irrigated cropland. In 1983 he placed fifth with 197.92 bushels per acre.

E. Kenneth Stonesifer of Still Pond (Kent County) repeated his 1983 achievement as Maryland's top producer of no-till corn grown under non-irrigated conditions. Last year's mark of 200.26 bushels per acre with Pioneer 3320 qualified for eighth in the over-all standings. In 1983 his winning non-irrigated, no-till yield of 180.6 bushels per acre was good for 16th place.

Ninth through fifteenth placings in the 1984 over-all Maryland corn yield contest were as follows:

9. William V. Riggs of Bloomfield (Queen Annes County), 199.92 bushels per acre; DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn, non-irrigated. Riggs placed first among Maryland contestants in the non-irrigated division of the National Corn Growers Association yield contest for 1984.

10. Robert J. Bassett of Ironshire (Worcester County), 198.717 bushels per acre; DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn, non-irrigated.

11. John M. Cohee, Jr., of Preston (Caroline County), 197.17 bushels per acre; DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn, irrigated; chicken manure applied.

12. James F. Hall III of Church Hill (Queen Annes County), 195.49 bushels per acre; DeKalb XL 71,

non-irrigated.

13. Robert W. Clark, Jr., of Still Pond Creek (Kent County), 193.18 bushels per acre; Gutwein 69B, non-irrigated.

14. Mason Farms, operated by William I. Mason and son of Ruthsburgh (Queen Annes County), 193.14 bushels per acre; DeKalb 6060, irrigated. The Masons placed first among Maryland contestants in the irrigated division of the National Corn Growers Association yield contest for 1984.

15. George Gunther of Starr (Queen Annes County), 190.09 bushels per acre; DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn, non-irrigated.

As in three previous years, all of

the corn growers cited from Caroline and Dorchester counties were participants in irrigation education projects conducted by agricultural agents from the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

Average yield for the top 15 growers in the 1984 Maryland corn contest was 201.32 bushels per acre. This compares with "top 15" averages of 195.91 bushels per acre in 1983; 198.73 in 1982; 192.6 in 1981, and 167.11 in 1980.

Corn yields throughout the state last year averaged 118 bushels per acre—a new state record, according to the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service. The previous all-time high was 107

bushels per acre in 1982. Earlier statewide yield averages were 105 bushels per acre in 1981; 72 in 1980, and 99 in 1979.

The official state corn yield contest has been conducted each year since 1952 as part of the crop improvement program of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

Yield measurements are supervised by Extension agricultural agents in participating counties. Awards to state winners are presented each year by the Maryland Crop Improvement Association and the Chevron Chemical Company. An official state soybean yield contest has been conducted in a similar manner for 14 years.

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