

# Caroline County tops Maryland contest

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland's average corn yield fell from a record 118 bushels per acre in 1984 to 110 bushels per acre last year, according to the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service.

But the average yield for 20 top participants in corn improvement programs sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service in seven Maryland counties far exceeded similar averages for any previous year.

Statewide winners were honored in several categories during last month's 79th annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association, held Feb. 25 in the Tidewater Inn at Easton.

For the fifth consecutive year, the overall corn yield champion hailed from the Preston area of Caroline County on Maryland's central Eastern Shore. Names and faces this time were different, however.

All six of the top growers in the 1985 overall Maryland yield standings were participants in the Extension-sponsored Caroline County corn irrigation improvement program. Each had planted DeKalb hybrid corn, and all but one utilized center pivot irrigation.

The Taylor brothers—Claude and Wesley—edged out their Preston neighbor, William G. Greenage, who had been overall state champion corn grower in the four previous years. The brothers have been among the top five in overall statewide corn yield standings for three consecutive years.

The Taylors' winning corn yield for 1985 was 232.46 bushels per acre. They used DeKalb T1100 hybrid corn and center pivot irrigation, and they utilized heavy applications of chicken manure to help reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer which otherwise would have been needed.

William G. Greenage and his son, Billy, placed second in the overall statewide corn yield standings for 1985 with 230.29 bushels per acre. The Greenage duo used DeKalb 689 hybrid corn and center pivot irrigation.

Operator of Beechwood Farms at Preston, William Greenage



Dr. V. Allan Bandel (right), Extension soils specialist at the University of Maryland, congratulates the Taylor brothers—Claude (left) and Wesley—of Preston on having the highest yield in the 1985 Caroline County irrigation corn improvement program.

holds the all-time official Maryland corn yield record of 244.8 bushels per acre, set in 1981.

W. Sherman Councill III of Goldsboro placed third in the overall statewide standings with a yield of 244.0 bushels per acre. During last month's annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association, he received a plaque from the Chevron Chemical Company for the highest irrigated corn yield in the state grown under no-till cultural methods.

In addition to their winning yield, the Taylor brothers of Preston had a field near Friendship which produced 221.1 bushels per acre. That was good enough for fourth place in the overall statewide standings.

Baltimore County made a strong showing in the non-irrigated corn yield category for 1985, with two growers surpassing the previous state record in this realm.

Harry Hubble of White Hall was seventh in the overall standings with a yield of 216.01 bushels per acre. His Pioneer, 3358 hybrid corn was planted in alfalfa sod in 38-inch rows on April 27 using the no-

till method. He qualified for a first-place plaque from Chevron in the non-irrigated, no-till category.

Hubble's yield broke the previous state record for non-irrigated corn set only last year by Edward Hancock of Snow Hill (Worcester County). Hancock's 1984 yield of 212.11 bushels per acre broke an old record which had stood since 1965.

Average yield for the top 20 growers in the 1985 official Maryland corn contest was 213.60 bushels per acre. This compares with a "top 15" average of 201.32 bushels per acre in 1984; 195.91 in 1983; 198.73 in 1982; 192.6 in 1981, and 167.11 in 1980.

Maryland's statewide average corn yield of 110 bushels per acre last year was second only to the record of 118 bushels per acre set in 1984, according to the Crop Reporting Service. The previous all-time high was 107 bushels per acre in 1982.

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.

## USDA ups fee for meat grading, certification

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Effective March 31, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will adopt the requirements of the 1985 edition of the National Bureau of Standards' Handbook 44, "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices," for grain weighing equipment, Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service, said recently.

Gilles said the adoption of Handbook 44 will provide regulatory relief, simplify regulations and achieve national

uniformity for devices used for official weighing.

Handbook 44 requirements include tolerances, classing systems and other criteria applicable to official grain weighing equipment. However, FGIS excluded those requirements for coupled-in-motion weighing because of its relative inaccuracy. Coupled-in-motion weighing is a system used to determine the weight of an entire trainload of grain without uncoupling the cars.

FGIS also revised the tolerances for scales, near-infrared (NIR)

analyzers, and Kjeldahl analyzers to update the regulations to reflect current commercial standards, and incorporated by reference NBS Handbook 105-1, "Specifications and Tolerances for Field Standard Weights." Gilles said FGIS will continue to work with the National Conference on Weights and Measures to develop moisture meter requirements.

For further information, contact Lewis Lebakken, Jr., Information Resources Management Staff, Room 0667, FGIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. Telephone (202) 382-1738.

## Pennsylvania on Parade set for March 27-29

STATE COLLEGE — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association is making final preparations for the annual Pennsylvania on Parade Sale and Show. This will be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on March 27 to March 29.

The show commences on Thursday, March 29, at 8:30. The judge for this event is Richard Keene, Gilbertsville, NY. This show is part one of the three shows which the All-Pennsylvania Awards will again be based on.

The annual sale starts the next day. Approximately 120 calves and 100 bred heifers and young cows will be sold.

Every top bull in the country will be represented. Older, highly regarded bulls, such as Ivanhoe, Elevation, Astronaut and Monitor, will also be represented.

Twenty-five daughters of Chairman will be offered to the discriminating buyer. Valiant and Morris Tony have 15 entries included in the sale. Buyers will also be able to select from numerous daughters of Chief Stewart, Rotate, and Bell. Tradition, Mars and Spirit offsprings will also be paraded for the prospective buyer.

On the other side of the pedigree, over 65 percent of these outstanding offspring are out of Very Good and Excellent dams.

The maternal side of the pedigree also has production plus. Well over half of the consignments have in excess of 20,000 pounds of milk and some as high as 30,000 pounds on the dam's side.

This state show and sale features consignments solely from Pennsylvania. Buyers are expected from across the country however, as in previous years.



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