

# Rutgers professor to implement corn research

ATLANTA, Ga. — Dr. Roy Flannery, professor of soils and crops, Rutgers University, achieved six-year average yields of 306 bushels per acre of corn and 103 bushels per acre of soybeans in maximum yield research plots. Now, he is moving into a new phase of work, a program to implement production practices in field-scale demonstrations for maximum economic yield systems.

A grant of \$45,000 from the Foundation of Agronomic Research will help support the work over three years. "We're enthusiastic about moving to this new effort with corn and soybeans to help producers lower their unit production costs," said Dr. W.K. Griffith, of Great Falls, Va. He is Eastern director of the Potash & Phosphate Institute. FAR is a non-profit organization affiliated with PPI to encourage agronomic research and education.

programs. FAR now supports about 70 projects in the United States, Canada, and other countries. The field-scale demonstration plots will be on farms in New Jersey, with the following objectives:  
 • To demonstrate the feasibility of intensively managed corn and soybeans on a field-scale with yield goals of 250 bu/A corn and 80 bu/A soybeans;

• To evaluate the yields and economic returns of the intensive system compared to current recommended practices;  
 • To inform corn and soybean producers in the state regarding the benefits of MEY production, based on results of the demonstrations.  
 From his experience with maximum yield research, Dr. Flannery has some definite ideas on certain management decisions in the field-scale plots. For

example, an ample and balanced fertilizer program will be maintained through monitoring and multiple applications. Recommended chemicals plus close observation throughout the growing season will be used to control yield-limiting pests such as weeds, insects and diseases. A Heath Precision Planter will be used in order to achieve narrow row widths and precision seed spacing within rows for both corn and soybeans.

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In their search for aflatoxin-resistant corn, scientists have found an unlikely ally — the maize weevil. This pest, which attacks field corn and stored grain, is being used experimentally to spread the aflatoxin-producing fungus *Aspergillus flavus* in test corn. In corn being tested for resistance, the weevil did a better job of spreading the fungus than currently used methods of infection. As a result, scientists can better control contamination so as to more accurately tell which types of corn are more resistant to aflatoxin.

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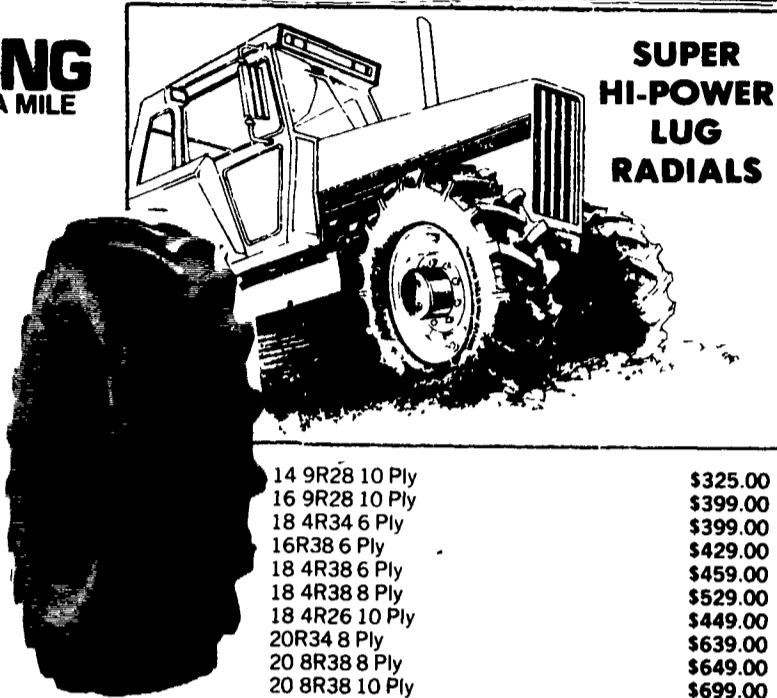
A sobriety test for "drunk" peanuts has been developed by ARS scientists. When peanuts are subjected to extreme hot or cold temperatures before they are cured, they produce alcohol and related compounds that cause a bitter taste. Taste tests have been relied on up to now to detect this, but now agency researchers have found a quicker, more effective way. Peanuts are ground up in a blender, a sensor detects the alcohol vapor from the peanuts, and a special meter measures it — much like a breath test for drunk drivers. The method is being field-tested in three of the top peanut-producing states — Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina — and the results are promising.

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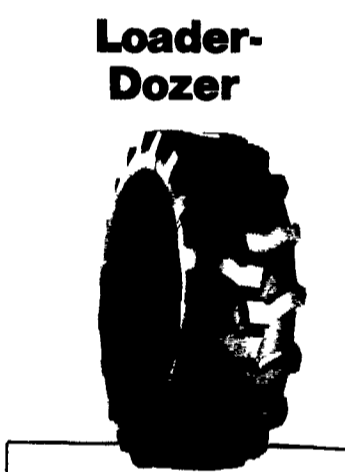


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