

# Study Shows Intensive Wheat Management Can Increase Profits

ATLANTA, Ga. — Intensive management practices which achieved triple-digit yields of soft red wheat in research plots are now being implemented with similar results on farms.

Teams of research and extension scientists from Maryland and Virginia have been studying, independently, intensive wheat management for the eastern U.S. Their research the past five years has proven that wheat yields of 100 bushels per acre, or more, can be grown consistently in research plots. The package of production practices necessary to achieve these yields in research included: the use of proven varieties, good seedbed preparation, adequate phosphorus and potassium nutrition, timely planting, tramlines, narrow rows, higher nitrogen rates in split applications, fungicides, and growth regulators.

The key questions farmers were asking, "Will it work on the farm using farmer equipment?" To find the answers, the teams from University of Maryland and Virginia Tech conducted field scale demonstrations in 1986,

supported in part by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). Results were very encouraging, even during an extremely dry spring and summer.

Farmers should be alert to the opportunities of higher yields produced with intensive management practices and the resulting higher profit potential due to lower unit cost of production.

The table below summarizes results from several locations across the two states.

Dr. Dan Brann, Virginia Tech small grains specialist, took the results one step further and calculated profit between the two systems. He found that the intensive management system gave an additional average net income of \$20.26 per acre for the four locations.

The yields on the control areas in these demonstrations were generally very good, much better than state average yields. Good management is a factor here. The Maryland and Virginia teams used good varieties, planted on time

with a good seedbed, and applied fall fertilizer according to soil test on both intensively managed and control areas. Also in the Maryland tests, both areas were planted using 4-inch rows and tramlines. Dr. Ron Mulford, agronomist, University of Maryland says, "I feel we are capable of producing wheat yielding 90 to 100 bushels per acre in Maryland, on a large scale basis."

Summary of results with soft red wheat demonstrations (1986).

State	Number of Locations	—Yields (bushels/acre)—		
		Intensive	Control	State Avg.
Maryland	4	91*	79	42
Virginia	4	73	53	38

\*An average of 4 locations, 5 intensively managed systems, and 3 proven varieties (60 observations).

Farmers interested in adopting the system should learn the management factors involved and know soil and wheat growing conditions well enough so economically sound input decisions can be made, the specialists conclude.

## Mastitis Control Is Subject Of Upjohn Guide

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A dairy herd management guide recently published by The Upjohn Company features management guidelines from six nationally-known dairy experts on controlling mastitis.

"Mastitis costs dairy producers, on the average, \$225 per cow per year," says Philip Sears, D.V.M., Ph.D., director of the New York State Mastitis Control Program.

"This fact illustrates the economic importance of controlling mastitis in a dairy herd."

The guide discusses many factors which may lead to mastitis — improper milking procedures, equipment malfunctions, lack of a dry cow treatment program and poor herd health. These and other areas involving dairy herd management are explained in the guide which also includes several

checklists that dairymen, veterinarians, animal health suppliers, dairy extensionists and others in the industry should find helpful in controlling mastitis.

For a copy of this new, comprehensive guide on controlling mastitis, write: Dairy Management Guide, The Upjohn Company, P.O. Box 5087, Kalamazoo, MI 49001-5087.

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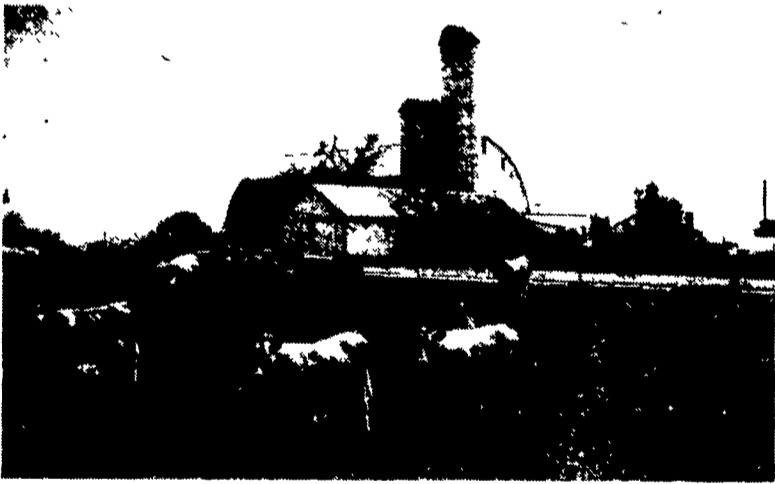
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