

Adams Co. Corn Day Stresses Profits Over Yields

BY GINGER SECRIST MYERS
Adams County Correspondent
YORK SPRINGS — Over 100 people ventured out on snow-packed roads to the York Springs Firehall, Jan. 26, for the 1987 Adams County Corn Day Program. The day featured a varied program of presentations on economical corn production, marketing options, an opportunity to browse through the 22 agri business displays on hand, and the presentation of the county's 5-Acre Corn Club and Silage Club awards.

Capturing a blue ribbon in the State Silage Club competition was Mason-Dixon Farms, Gettysburg, with a yield of 23.1 tons per acre at 70 percent moisture. Farm Crops Manager, Thomas Johnson, explained that Eastland variety 625X was double-cropped in after barley. Mason-Dixon Farms then irrigated their corn with manure water.

Others in the county participating in the 5-Acre Corn Club programs were David Reinecker, York Springs, and Ronald and William Harrison, Littlestown.

This meeting served as a two-credit session under the new pesticide re-certification requirements with those in attendance receiving one credit for Joey Mayer's, Cumberland County Extension Agent, presentation on "Chemical Weed Control Recommendations" and Penn State Ag Safety Specialist Dennis Murphy's detailed explanation of the PA Right-to-Know Law and Pesticide Update Training.

Doug Beegle, Penn State agronomist, addressed the topics of "Secondary Elements and New Trends in Corn Fertilization". Beegle stressed that the pH of the soil will determine how you manage sulfur and the micronutrients. He noted that sulfur deficiencies are rare in Pennsylvania, in large part due to the amount of acid rain the state receives. Still, he feels sulfur deficiencies may be our next problem area. Field tests for deficiencies in both sulfur and zinc have been inconsistent, but tests are continuing.

Beegle outlined the need for better nutrient management for both corn and alfalfa yields. Highlighting the value of manure for soil nutrients. Beegle stated that three-quarters of the nutrients produced on a dairy farm stays on the farm. It is contained in the manure to be spread back on the

fields from which the crops were harvested to feed the cows. The other quarter of the nutrients leave the farm in the form of milk and cull cows.

To take full advantage of those nutrients available in the manure, Beegle recommends saving the liquid fraction of manure since it contains large amounts of nitrogen, incorporating manure immediately after spreading to prevent loss of nitrogen through oxidation, and soil testing and manure analysis to match soil needs with manure nutrient content.

Roland Freund, Penn State area farm management agent, looked at ways to increase profit margins by reducing costs rather than by increasing corn production. Freund likened past production strategies to a double-barreled

shotgun approach; producing more corn regardless of the costs. He suggests instead that corn producers attempt to, "get the buck with the barrel."

He recommends, "Take the time and patience to use a sharp pencil. Figure out all your costs and calculate likely sales. Put your inputs on your best fields first and consider rotating unprofitable acreage out of corn... if it doesn't work out on paper, it sure won't work out in the field."

Area marketing specialist Larry Yeager and J. Glen Miller, Adams County ASCS, highlighted possible marketing options and the 1987 ASCS program provisions. Stated Yeager, "While some of you may be hesitant to consider the government programs for a variety of reasons; they're still the best game in town."



Penn State Extension agronomist Doug Beegle (left) congratulates Thomas Johnson and Horace Waybright, Mason-Dixon Farms, Gettysburg, on their 5-Acre Corn Club yield. Presentation was part of Adams Co. Corn Day program.

Conservation Reserve Signup Set For Feb. 9

HARRISBURG — Farmers will have another opportunity to enter their highly erodible land in USDA's 10-year Conservation

Reserve Program from February 9 to 27. Eugene Thompson, director of the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation

Service, reported a change in eligibility for this signup.

Alfalfa and other legumes and grasses in a crop rotation system are now considered agricultural

commodities in determining land eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), reports Thompson.

Land must be in an agricultural commodity crop for at least two of the five years, 1981-85 as one condition of eligibility. "This is land that is not causing an erosion problem while in grass, but would when it is put in grain crops without conservation practices," reports James Olson, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Another condition is that soil erosion is occurring at three times the allowable rate on land classes II through V or at two times the allowable rate with a serious gulley erosion problem. Land in classes VI-VIII does not need to meet the soil loss requirements.

Farmers in the CRP receive payments for ten years for taking erosive cropland out of production and putting it into perennial grass, wildlife plantings or trees.

Additional information on the Conservation Reserve Program or other provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill is available from Soil Conservation Service or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Offices.

Cochranville Dairyman Elected Director

SOUTHAMPTON — Elvin M. Rohrer Jr. has been named a director of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, according to Robert B. McSparran, president.

Rohrer, Cochranville, was

elected by Inter-State's District 11 members. He replaces H. Lee Brown, Oxford, who served as a director for two years.

Rohrer, 53, and his family have been farming for over 200 years. They currently own 153 acres and

milk 55 Holsteins at their Elver Valley Farm.

An active Inter-State member, Rohrer served as his district president, vice president and delegate. He has been a cooperative member for 20 years.

Rohrer is a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the Chester County Agricultural Conservation Service and the Chester County Dairy Promotion Committee.

In addition, he is an active member of the Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church and is a former member of the West Fallowfield Christian School Board.

Rohrer and his wife, Vera, are members of the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Association and welcome the county's tourists. They are the parents of five children — Judy, Linda, Charlene, Jay and Gerald.

Delmarva Dairy Day Set

NEWARK, Del. — New trends in milking equipment and electronic feeding will be featured at the annual Delmarva Dairy Day Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hartly Fire Hall, Hartly.

The theme of this year's meeting, which is cosponsored by the Delaware and Maryland Cooperative Extension systems, is "Dairying in the 1990s." The meeting is free and open to the public; however, pre-registration at county extension offices for an industry-sponsored lunch is required by Jan. 25.

Prior to the first morning session, exhibits will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and coffee and donuts will be served.

Dr. George Haenlein, University of Delaware extension dairy specialist, will be moderator of the

first session on milking equipment. Products such as Delaval, Boumatic and Westfalia will be discussed.

The use of fiber in dairy cow rations will be considered by Dr. Kim Cassel, University of Maryland extension dairy specialist. Chip Dougherty, animal nutritionist from Eastman Kodak, and Roger McKnight, president of Romac Nutrition, will then speak on the use of acids in ration formulation.

Fly control will be the topic of Dr. Ed Schmidtman, research entomologist with the USDA, in Beltsville, Md.

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