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State Five-Acre Corn Winner Grows Only Record Over 200 Bushels

BY ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Some sport teams have a "magic number" that will either ensure their hopes for championship playoffs or the championship itself.

For M. Lamar Miller, corn growing contestant, the magic number is 7877. Cargill 7877, that is.

"This variety turned out the best, so I entered it in the contest," said Miller about his entry in the state farm show a few weeks ago in Harrisburg. At the show, Miller won the Five-Acre Corn Club contest, producing 209.4 bushels per acre. In the 1989 growing year, hampered by a dismally wet spring, his entry was the only record over 200 bushels per acre in the ear regular harvest class.

High in awards

So how did he do it? And how does this Manheim-area cash crop and dairy farmer place so high in awards both in the state and the nation?

According to Miller, it's a combination of obtaining good soil fertility, the right seed genetics, and the bushel yield advantage from his "no-till" planting method.

"The quality of seed is important," said Miller, "but the top yield nutrients have a lot

to do with how the crops will turn out. The no-till corn has a 10 to 20 bushel per acre yield advantage over tilled stock. And I was able to obtain more even seed emergence on

the field where I picked the winner of the contest."

Fertility is essential, and Miller obtains a soil test every year. To improve the soil test,

Miller spreads a liquid cow manure. Miller's soil has tested high for nitrates, phosphorous, potash, and "micronutrients" such as zinc, magnesium, calcium, and other minerals. Sulphur, combined with the nitrogen, improves nutrient efficiency.

Quality of seed

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PSU Dairy Science Club Sets Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State Dairy Judging Contest is March 24, 1990. The Penn State Dairy Science Club will be holding its annual Spring Judging Contest on Saturday, March 24, 1990 at the Penn State Ag Arena, at 10:00 a.m. This event is open to all 4-H and FFA members.

The contest consists of five divisions: Sr. 4-H, Jr. 4-H, FFA, Collegiate Amateur, and Collegiate Professional. There have been some changes in the Jr. 4-H division. Following lunch at the Ag Arena, there will be a workshop on judging and oral reasons for the Jr. 4-H contestants and coaches. However, some requests have been made for the Jr. 4-H'ers to give reasons in the contest. Therefore, Jr. 4-H division contestants will have the option to give one set of oral reasons or else attend the workshops. They cannot do both activities. Their reasons scores will not count in calculating high individuals and teams in this division. However, the three highest scoring individuals in junior reasons will be awarded. Jr. 4-H contestants giving reasons must be pre-entered and designated on the entry form. You cannot sign up the day of the contest to give Jr. 4-H oral reasons.

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More Vegetable Growers Needed For Dutch Country Growers Co-op

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — "Why spend \$3,000 to truck produce from California when it's right at our door?" asks Gideon Stoltzfus.

Stoltzfus is president of Dutch Country Growers, a co-op for vegetable growers. He said, "When the co-op began six years ago, members knocked on buyers' doors, but now, buyers are knocking on our doors."

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Standing outside the dairy barn with his dog, Cody, M. Lamar Miller owns and rents land for cash crops and dairy farming near Manheim. Miller won the Five-Acre Corn Club contest at the State Farm Show in Harrisburg, producing 209.4 bushels per acre with Cargill 7877 variety using no-till planting. "The quality of seed is important, but the top yield nutrients have a lot to do with how the crops will turn out," he said. Photo by Andy Andrews.

After Additional Tests FDA Says National Milk Supply Safe

KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

FREDERICK, Md. — "Much ado about nothing" may be the conclusion of most people in the dairy industry to the latest national flap over the issue of drug residues in milk.

Last week the federal Food and Drug Administration, responding to claims that the nation's milk

supply was compromised by minute quantities of antibiotics, issued a statement upholding its integrity. The FDA said its study of 70 retail milk samples from 14 cities turned up no evidence of sulfamethazine and no confirmation of any positive readings of other antibiotics.

"Our study indicates that the American dairy farmer is using

animal drugs carefully and conscientiously and that the milk supply does not contain unsafe drug residues," said Gerald Guest, director of FDA's Center for Vet-

erinary Medicine.

The agency conducted its test after the Wall Street Journal, in a front page article Dec. 29, reported evidence of contamination in a

similar study it conducted in conjunction with the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington-based consumer

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Atlantic Breeders Show Good Year

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

MT. JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Semen sales were strong in 1989 for members of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative (ABC), according to officials. But members will have to be prepared to make decisions about the future.

Members of Region 4 ABC were told they are to receive a \$383,256 return on business last year. A printed report showed that

net savings from the year's business amounted to a patronage dividend of 6.7 percent. They were given the message during the cooperative's annual banquet-meeting, held to review business and honor outstanding members.

According to Alan Bair, in charge of member and public relations for the cooperative, the cooperative "saw extremely good growth in technical service and the

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State Young Farmer winners named at the annual banquet Thursday evening are: (l to r), Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moyer, Myerstown, Lebanon Co., under age 30; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weller, Middleburg, Snyder Co., community service and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zug, Peach Bottom, Lancaster Co., over age 30. Other stories and photographs from the state Young Farmer Convention held this week in Lancaster are found on Pages A-34, A-36 & B-18.