

## Some Corn Planting Reminders

(Continued from Page D15)

bushels per acre; Group 5- 124.0 bushels per acre.

Average Yield by Cultivation Group: No cultivation- 140.4 bushels per acre; One cultivation- 139.1 bushels per acre.

Average Yield by Weed Control Group: Good weed control- 141.6 bushels per acre; Average weed control- 124.6 bushels per acre; Poor weed control- 92.5 bushels per acre.

Average Yield by Row Spacing Group: 30 inch rows- 146.7 bushels per acre; 32 inch rows- 125.3 bushels per acre; 34 inch rows- 120.0 bushels per acre; 36 inch rows- 131.0 bushels per acre; 38 inch rows- 132.0 bushels per acre; 40 inch rows- 113.0 bushels per acre.

Average Yield by Fertilization Group: Fertilizer plus manure- 140.8 bushels per acre; Fertilizer only- 139.6 bushels per acre.

Average Application of Plant Nutrients: Nitrogen- 178.4 pounds per acre; Phosphorus- 102.3 pounds per acre; Potassium- 90.0 pounds per acre.

9.5 percent cultivated at least once.

49.4 percent did not use a soil insecticide and averaged 134.2 bushels per acre.

50.6 percent used a soil insecticide and averaged 156.1 bushels

per acre.

92.1 percent used atrazine or a pre-packaged mix containing atrazine.

43.4 percent used conventional tillage and averaged 134.6 bushels per acre.

17.2 percent used no-till planting and averaged 151.4 bushels per acre.

11.9 percent used chisel tillage and averaged 142.9 bushels per acre.

23.2 percent used chisel and disk tillage and averaged 147.0 bushels per acre.

For the 96 growers who submitted most-of-production data, the average yield was 140.1 bushels per acre. Their average total cost was \$261.20 per acre of \$1.92 per bushel.

### Farmstead Planting

Bob Graves, Penn State agricultural engineer, offers the following observations to help anyone planning to change a farmstead:

- We build buildings too close -- too close to each other, too close to roads, streams, and property lines and even too close to the ground to allow good drainage of water away from the building.

- We limit access. Access is limited for milk trucks, fire trucks, delivery vehicles, silo filling, and even fresh summer breezes.

- Farmsteads are not static. We

are always adding things like silos, grain tanks, buildings, roads, and yards. Have you left enough room?

- Everything is getting bigger. Trucks and farm machinery keep getting longer, wider, and heavier. Does your farmstead plan accommodate this?

As the 1990 building season starts to rev up, think about these points whenever you are involved in changing farmstead facilities.

### Drinking Water For Pigs

To design or evaluate the water supply for a swine facility, flow rate (quantity per minute) is more important than quantity per animal when nipple waterers are used.

Use the following flow rates for nipple waterers, based on management groupings:

- 10- to 25-pound pigs - 1 cup per minute.
- 25- to 50-pound pigs - 2 cups per minute.
- grower pigs - 3 cups per minute.
- finishing hogs - 1 quart per minute.
- sows and boars - 1 to 2 quarts per minute.
- lactating sows - ½ gallon per minute.

### Livestock Profits Have Been Limited

Strengthened livestock prices in the mid-1980s may have led producers to believe they were making money. But aggregate data on livestock producers, summarized by the USDA's Economics Research Service, indicate otherwise.

When expenses, including cash costs and capital replacement costs, are taken into account, expenses have outrun receipts for most livestock during most of the period between 1972 and 1988. The picture becomes even more alarming when receipts and expenses for the period are trans-

lated into constant 1988 dollars.

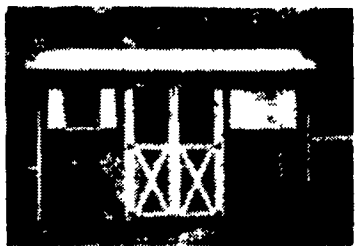
In 1988 dollars, receipts fell faster than expenses, and many producers experienced losses. Cow-calf producers experienced only three profitable years, and feedlot operators logged profits only once. Farrow-to-finish operators were the second most profitable producers as a group, covering expenses nine times during the period.

Sheep producers were the most profitable as a whole. Aggregate data show that the nation's sheep producers made enough money to cover expenses in 16 of the 17 years.

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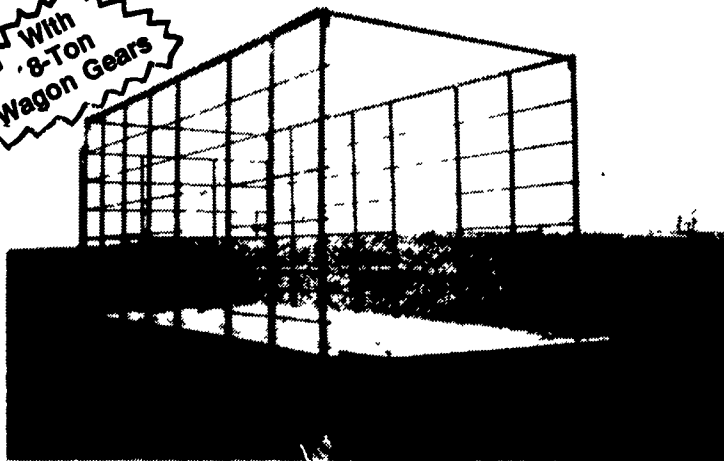
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