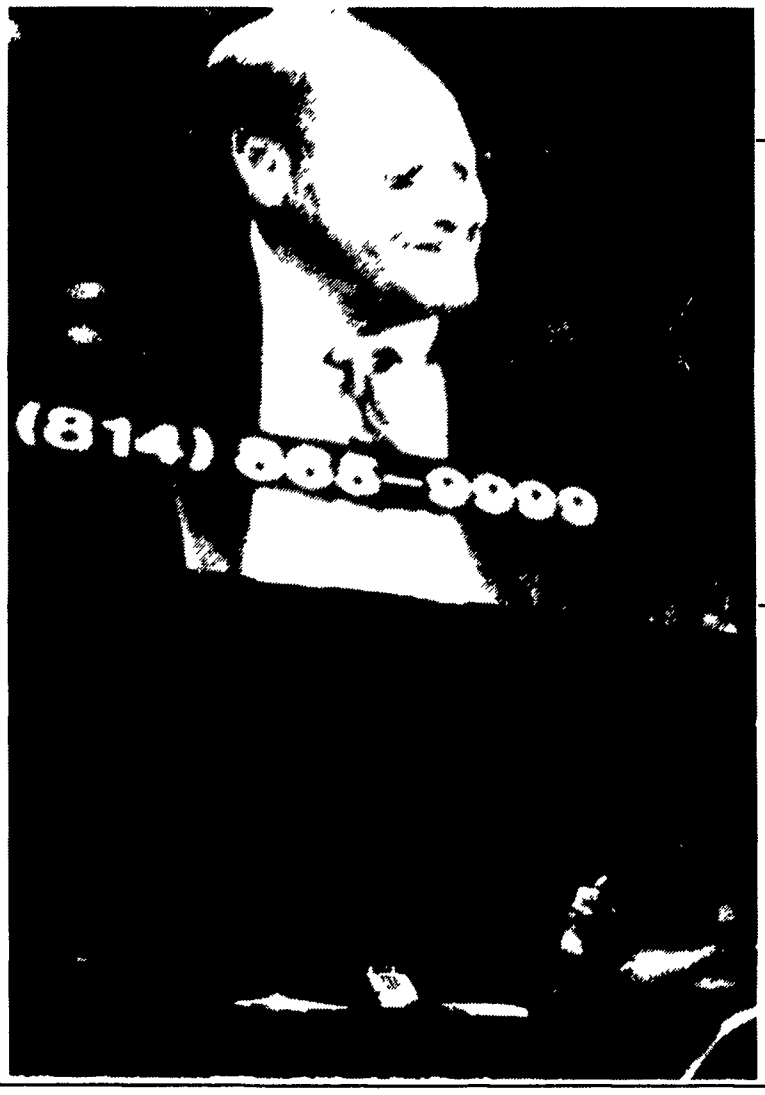
ADADC Elects Officers

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Raymond Johnson, president of American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC), was re-elected at a board meeting on Feb. 20, held after the ADADC 31st Annual Meeting, at the Sheraton Inn in Liverpool.

Johnson has served as president of ADADC for eight years. He serves as secretary of United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA), and is a member of the UDIA personnel and finance committees. He is also a member of the National Dairy Board.

Johnson operates a 450-acre farm in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, with his son. They milk 75 Holsteins.

Also elected were: vice president, Ronald Harris of Stanley, Ontario County; second vice president, Allen Ostrander of Theresa, Jefferson County; treasurer, Robert Harrison of Skaneateles, Onondaga County; and secretary, David Hardie of Lansing, Tompkins County.



Ray Shipp, associate professor of agronomy, Penn State, above, listens via satellite to a call placed by Paul Craig, Dauphin Co. extension agent, who moderated questions and answers at the Crop Production Satellite Seminar.

Satellite Conference

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Combines are another compaction culprit. Often, the grain tanks hold 160-180 bushels of corn and create enormous pressure on the tires — and lots of compaction on the soil.

Trucks in the field, holding the grain from the combine, often support 320-350 bushels of corn at a time (especially with high-moisture corn). Instead of bringing the truck onto the field and creating tire traffic compaction, the farmer should park the truck in an adjacent lane and unload the corn to the truck off the field.

"We must manage to elminate or not cause soil compaction on our farms, or we must manage our inputs to reduce the problem should it already exist," said Hoffman.

Study corn hybrids

Also at the satellite conference, experts said that corn growers should study corn hybrids carefully and consider the conditions of the farm itself before selecting the seed.

Corn hybrid differences could amount to a difference of 30-40 bushels/acre of yield potention, according to Greg Roth, assistant professor of corn management at Penn State.

"One of the most important characteristics is hybrid maturity," said Roth at the satellite seminar. "This is important because we want to have a hybrid that matures year-in and year-out on your particular farm."

Hybrids are classified in two maturity types: relative maturity and degree-day. Relative maturity includes the anticipated amount of moisture content. The degree-day measures heat units or growing degree days between planting and physiological maturity.

Hybrid factors

Other factors going into the selection of a hybrid include:

- Planting day, end use, and harvest time.
- Soil types. Should we use long- or short-season hybrids?
- Drought potential. Is the seed drought stress-resistant under a range of maturities?
- Standability. For grain producers who are going to have corn on the stalk till late November or early December, will it tolerate different stress factors, including corn bore, stalk rot, and other problems?
- Disease tolerance and resistance. Farmers should identify specific problems with diseases on their farms.
- Yield. Hybrid test reports and other sources of information can provide these factors.
- Cold tolerance. "It's especially critical if we're planting corn in no-till environments where soils are cool and moist and the corn plant is growing very slowly," said Roth. "It's especially critical when we're planting corn in no-till environments with a high level of residue." There are a number of stresses, including insect and slug damage, that the corn seedling can be exposed to.

Yield stability for the hybrid is important. There are two types: offensive and defensive hybrids. Offensive hybrids provide good yields under optimum conditions. The defensive hybrids maintain a good yield across a wide range of growing conditions.

"In most cases in Pennsylvania, we want to be looking for these defensive characteristics," said Roth.

Once the characteristics about hybrids and field data are compared, farmers should create a plan of action for selecting a specific hybrid for a specific situation on the farm, according to Roth.