

Planting Rate Determines Yield

DEKALB, III. — Ensuring the optimum number of corn plants per acre is one key to harvesting maximum yields. So figuring the correct planting rates is essential, said DEKALB Plant Genetics regional agronomist Rick Mason.

Growers should consider several factors when figuring their planting populations goals.

"Most planting rate suggestions assume that average high management levels are going to be practiced," he said. "So if your managemnent is not at a high level, perhaps the planting rate should be reduced somewhat to avoid over population."

Planting rate should exceed final targeted population because some seeds fail to germinate and other seedlings never mature, Mason said. He suggests planting 15 percent over the targeted population, assuming normal conditions for germination and plant growth,

Soil moisture at planting is another factor to consider when selecting seeding rates.

"In non-irrigated areas of the western Corn Belt, below-normal moisture justifies reducing planting rate somewhat while abovenormal supply indicates abovenormal planting rate," said Mason. "In the central and eastern Corn Belt, where seasonal rainfall tends to approach adequacy for maximum corn performance, growers need not cut planting rate if it is dry at planting time.

In four of five years, result from DEKALB's on-farm field analysis comparison trials (FACT) plots showed highest yields occurred with planting rates of 31-35 thousand seeds per acre. Mason reminds growers that irrigated and non-irrigated corn both respond favorably to the highest population levels.

Eberlys Become Junior Members

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Allison and Shawn Eberly of Stevens, Pa., recently became junior members of the American Polled Hereford Association, according to an announcement from the beef breed's headquarters.

Junior memberships have been given to thousands of youth in every state in the nation by the association, entitling them to reduced fees and certain privileges the same as adult members.

The American Polled Hereford Association is the national promotion and registration organization for Polled Herefords, one of the leading breeds of beef cattle in the world.

Polled Herefords are naturally hornless and are the first major breed to originate in the U.S., starting with 11 animals in 1901. More than four million Polled Herefords have been registered since that beginning. The breed is noted primarily for its economic traits of maternal efficiency, fertility, gentle temperament, calving ease, and adaptability.



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