

Early Season Seedling Emergence Aids Profitability

DEKALB, Ill. — Fundamental early season corn seedling management usually produces a profitable crop. DEKALB regional agronomist Jim Schwartz said proper soil nutrition is the key management factor. Precise fertilizer placement can get seedlings

off to a good start. "Small seedlings at the two-leaf stage have only a primary root system so early season nutrient uptake is limited," he said. "Therefore, it's important to keep the fertilizer and other nutrients closer to the root system. That will increase the

chance of having a healthier seedling."

Schwartz adds that growers should select hybrids that germinate quickly to avoid any early plant or insect dilemmas.

"When you select hybrids, select ones that will be able to

withstand the conditions of a particular area," he said. "If diseases are a problem, choose hybrids that resist those in your area. If cold or compacted soils are a problem, select a hybrid with a very strong emergence and vigor."

To ward off seed rot, decay and insects such as seed corn beetles, seed corn maggots and wireworms before plant emergence, Schwartz recommends using planter-box seed treatments. He said most root-

worm insecticides protect against these seed-attackers.

Schwartz advises examining each field for plant population after emergence.

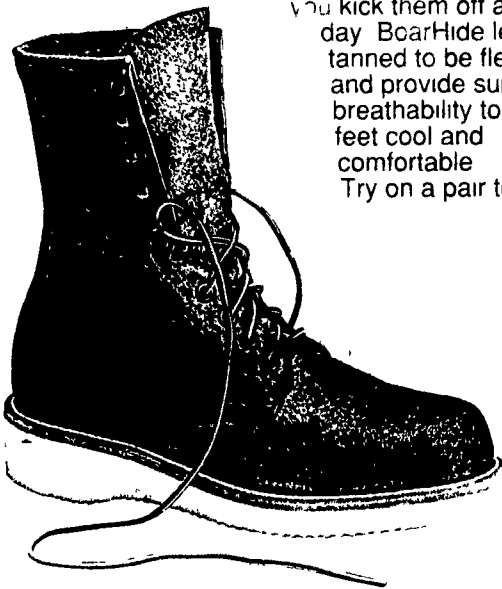
"Counts should be made to determine total emergence as well as uniformity," he said. "It is normal for 10 to 15 percent of the planted seed to fail to germinate, but if that rate exceeds 15 percent, the reasons should be determined."

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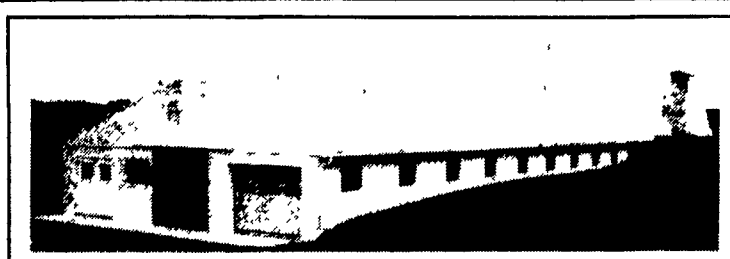
Siberian Ag Leaders Tour Area



DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Visiting agribusiness leaders from southern Siberia in the Soviet Union discuss their recent three-week study program here at Delaware Valley College. Left to right are Dr. Nataliya Afsowina, translator; Dr. Sergei Dobronevsky, dean of business at Novosibirsk State University; Dr. John Mertz, provost of Delaware Valley College; and Innokenty Tengerekov, assistant general director for state universities of the Altai region. The college hosted the classroom/field trip program to acquaint the Soviet visitors with the latest U.S. agricultural, scientific, and economic developments.

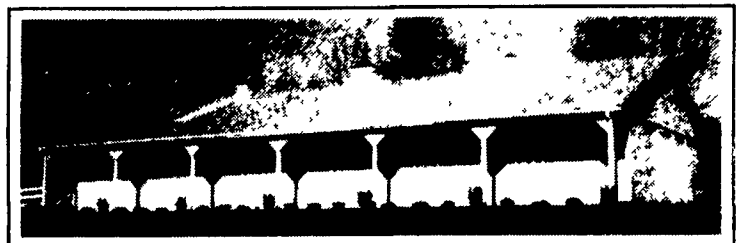
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