

Delaware Corn Variety Trials Sum Up Crop Year

NEWARK, DE — The results of Delaware's hybrid field corn performance trials are published and ready for distribution. The trials, conducted by the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension, covered 124 hybrids divided from five maturity groups.

The trials were held at three locations in the state: the university's Research and Education Center in Georgetown, the Round Maple Farm in Smyrna, and Rutkoske Brothers Inc. in Middletown. Hybrids were evaluated by yield, percent moisture, percent early stand, final population per acre, percent stalk lodging, percent root lodging and percent ear drop.

Bob Uniatowski, Extension associate in agronomy, reports yield average across maturities decreased by 51 bushels per acre in Middletown, 78 bushels per acre in Smyrna, and 34 bushels per acre in Georgetown. He attributes the drastic yield reduction in Smyrna to drought and high temperatures. Rainfall was only 10 inches in Smyrna during the critical months of May, June, July and August, compared to 21 inches in 1990 and 32 inches in 1989.

In Middletown, there were statistically significant differences between early, early-medium and medium maturities. But there were no statistically significant differences between the medium-late and late maturities. The three early maturity groups out-yielded two later maturities by a 20-bushel-per-acre average. There were statistically significant dif-

ferences between all maturities in Smyrna except the late maturities. The early and early-medium maturity groups were most affected by the drought in Smyrna. The yield average was 102 for early maturities and 90 bushels per

acre for medium varieties.

Corn varieties in Georgetown also showed statistically significant differences across groups with the exception of the late-maturing varieties. The highest yielding group in both Georgetown and

Smyrna was medium-late, followed by late, medium, early-medium and early.

Uniatowski says the trial results are formatted in a bulletin with yield rankings for each location along with combined site averages

and two- and three-year averages. He suggests that farmers use the trial results with an emphasis on two- and three-year averages when looking for a good, consistent hybrid for the 1992 season.

Potato Growers Will Meet At Farm Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The 75th annual Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers banquet is scheduled at the Farm Show Complex on January 15, 1992 during the state farm show.

The Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc. was chartered in 1922 and today is the oldest agricultural cooperative in the U.S.

Pennsylvania's potato industry ranks 11th nationally, producing approximately 480 million pounds of potatoes valued at more than \$35 million per year.

The cooperative has helped improve the potato industry through promotional and research efforts in search of better markets, according to Roger Springer, gen-

eral manager of the cooperative.

"The potato offers consumers the desirable qualities of no fat and no cholesterol," said Springer. "Tasty yet nutritious, potatoes are low in calories — only 110 per medium potato — and high in vitamins, dietary fiber, and minerals."

Almost all of Pennsylvania's potatoes are used for fresh table

stock, processing, and potato chip production. The state ranks first nationally in potato chip production, with approximately 30,500 tons a year.

For additional information, contact the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc., 3107 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, (717) 232-5300.

Establish Yield Goals To Help Improve Profits

DEKALB, Ill. — Successful corn growers use yield goals as a part of their profit planning.

"Yield goals should be established for every field," said Rick Mason, regional agronomist for DEKALB Plant Genetics. "Set a sound, realistic goal for each field and develop a set of sound management practices which will enable you to reach that goal at the lowest cost."

Mason suggests writing the goal down, perhaps on field-by-field notes, and comparing it with actual yield at harvest.

"When the season is over, you can analyze the records to determine why you did or did not reach or exceed your goal," the agronomist said.

Mason warns, however, against setting rigid goals because growing conditions change during the season.

"For example, if seedling stands are good and soil moisture reserves are high, it is perfectly valid to raise the yield goal and sidedress a greater amount of nitrogen than originally planned," he said. "If it is droughty at tasseling time, it may be prudent to lower the yield goal and forego a corn borer control treatment that might otherwise be needed."

Mason says before setting a yield goal, verify profitability by calculating costs and returns. More yield usually requires more expenditure per acre.

"The real key is whether the


cost of producing a bushel of grain is reduced," he said.

When setting a yield goal, calculate a three-to-five year average yield for a field and add 25 bushels per acre. Then modify this

figure up or down to reflect your best knowledge about soil type, stored moisture status, fertility status, previous crop, and each factor of your own management, Mason said.

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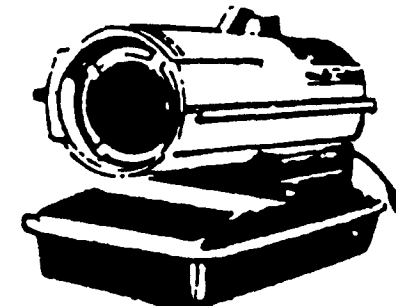
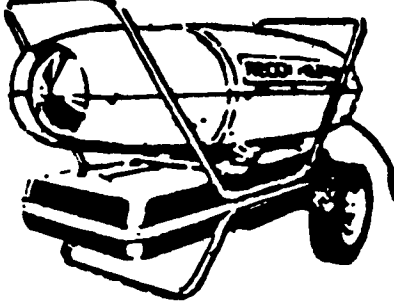
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