

Yield Test Corn Plots Harvested

MASCOT (Lancaster Co.) — "Corn yields are very good across the country," said Gary Stuart, corn breeder for AgriPro Seeds. Stuart was in Lancaster County Tuesday and Wednesday to help P. L. Rohrer & Bros. Inc., local distributor, harvest test plots.

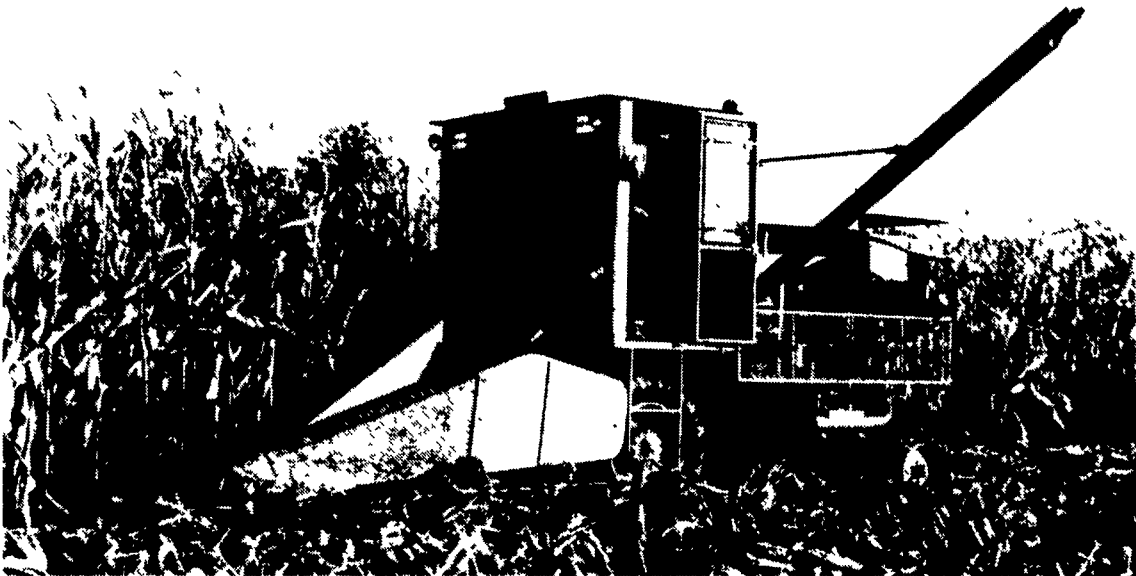
The company has 72 test plots located across the U.S. and in 10 locations in Europe. Stuart is responsible for 10,000 rows located in Indiana, Ohio, western Kentucky, southern Michigan and the plots in Lancaster County. A row is 15 feet long. In winter he works with an additional 1,000 rows in Hawaii. Fifty percent of the hybrids that are tested here are also planted in Spain and Italy.

"Yields here and in other areas have reached nearly 200 bushels," Stuart said. "In western Kentucky, southern Indiana and southern Illinois yields have averaged 200 bushels. Around Lafayette, Indiana, production is down to about 170 bushels. We had cool wet weather in northern Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota, which is hurting yields. It is probably hurting the production of commercial seed corn more than regular corn harvest. There has been some seed corn lost to frost, but I don't know how much yet," Stuart said.

The test plots are harvested with a combine especially made to weigh and moisture-test the grain at the end of each 15-foot row. In about 35 seconds, all yield data is

compiled into a computer and the machine moves on to the next short row. Stuart has a four-week period when he harvests seed from test plots and then a five-week period for harvesting yield plots in his area. The Lancaster plots nearly finished out the harvest requirements for this year in the U.S. But new plots were planted this week in Hawaii. After Christmas, Stuart will move to those plots for pollenization.

Stuart said almost everywhere in the country corn harvest was three weeks behind normal. Planting was normal, but the cool wet weather just did not give them the heat units needed to bring the corn on earlier.



Harvesting the yield test plots for P. L. Rohrer and AgriPro. The local plots are part of a nationwide series of test plots to determine the best hybrids for each growing area.

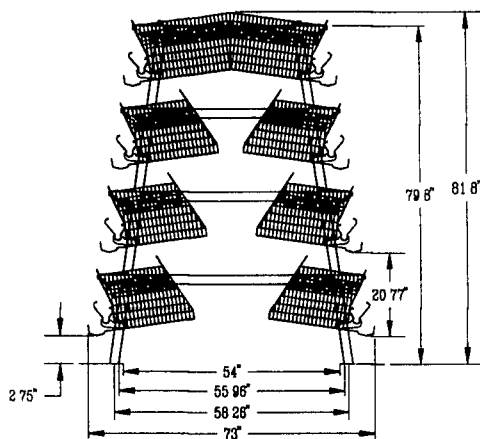


Earl Rohrer, standing, and Gary Stuart, with the computerized combine that gathers data on test plot yields.

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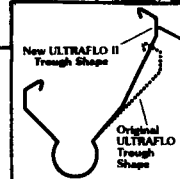
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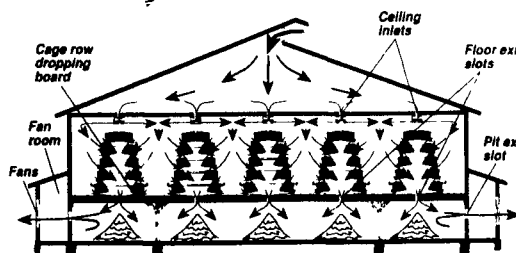
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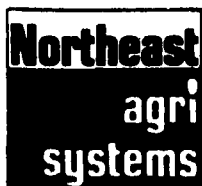


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York Offers Dairy Talk

THOMASVILLE (York Co.) — Dairy farmers, nutritionists, and veterinarians serving the dairy industry are invited to attend a dairy nutrition seminar Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the York County 4-H Center.

The center is located on Stoverstown Road, east of Thomasville. The deadline for registration is Nov. 17.

Designed to interpret new feeding research and help you fine-tune rations for the winter season, Penn State professors Dr. Gabriella Varga and Dr. Richard Adams will respond to questions and discuss the application of new information.

Pre-registration is requested. The fee is \$10 per person and includes lunch. Checks should be made payable to Extension Service Special Fund. Mail registration to: Nutrition Seminar, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402-9041. Call Jennie or Lisa at (717)757-9657 or Tom or Linda at (717)334-6271 or 664-4525.

