



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 13, 1993

Corn Grower President Has Model Conservation Farm

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.)—"If weeds are not controlled, you are going to get a greatly reduced crop. The most single limiting factor in corn production is water, and weeds take it."

The author of this quote, Grant Troop, president, Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers, knows how to grow a good crop of corn. But he is also very sensitive to the environmental health of his land.

"Weed control depends on chemicals," Troop said. "But with what EPA has done in the last 20 years, a lot of safety has been insured to the environment. The chemicals that are dangerous are not on the market

anymore. Many of the earlier chemicals I didn't use anyway because of the suspicion of danger. I use all the safeguards and recommendations on the label, and I feel I'm doing a safe job of farming. It works for me."

Troop graduated from Penn State with a degree in agronomy in 1973 and immediately started to work the family farm west of Georgetown. Before his time, the farm was a concentrated livestock operation, and there were only four large fields on the farm. These fields contained "gullies deep enough to bury a car in them." But strip and contour farming were initiated and developed in the '60s. Now the land is in 21 small fields and can be called a model conservation

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Grant Troop, president, Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers, believes you can grow a good corn crop and still be sensitive to the environmental health of the land. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER
CORN GROWERS
ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy
Assistant Professor

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—This year will certainly go down as the "tale of two seasons" for corn producers in Pennsylvania.

On one hand, those in southern counties had generally excellent growing conditions and very good yields. For those in central to northern counties, a short cool season magnified any management mistakes and reduced yields and grain quality.

There's something to be learned from both seasons.

In the southern areas, the record yields reflected the use

of continually improving management and hybrids combined with a reasonably good season. Another factor that contributed to the high yields was cooler than normal temperatures. While it's true that corn grows well on hot summer nights, these high temperatures also cause the plants to "burn off" more of the sugars produced by photosynthesis during the day.

Cool temperatures reduce this process, known as dark respiration, and these sugars eventually contribute to higher yields.

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Lancaster Farming Official Corn Talk Publication

With this issue of Corn Talk, *Lancaster Farming* becomes the official publication for the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers' Association, Inc. (PMCGA). Officials of the corn growers recently asked *Lancaster Farming* to publish their quarterly newsletter because of the added exposure their Corn Talk section will receive from *Lancaster Farming* readers, members and non-members alike.

"We're excited about this new arrangement with *Lancaster Farming* and appreciate their support of the project," said Grant Troop, PMCGA president.

Three more issues of Corn Talk are planned for 1993 — spring, summer and fall, with April 17 as the next issue date. Each issue will contain useful grower information, interviews with corn growers, association news from both the state and national associations, and messages from advertisers.



CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

Monday, February 15

Penn State Crop Production Satellite Seminar, Grain Crops, contact your local extension office.

Tuesday, February 16

Ag Information Series, Producing Quality Corn Silage and Troubleshooting Corn Production Problems, Unilec

Building, DuBois, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 21

NCGA Corn Classic, San Antonio, Texas, thru Feb. 23.

Monday, February 22

Lebanon/Dauphin Crops Day, Lebanon Valley Expo Center.

Tuesday, February 23

Silage Production from Seed to Animal National Conference, Syracuse, N.Y., thru Feb. 25.

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