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As we summarized the results of this year's 5 Acre Corn Club program, I couldn't help to notice the factors that were generally associated with top yielding entries — early May planting, a high population (often above 25,000 plants/acre), and a reasonable fertility

program.

It's interesting to note that many of the entrants exceeded their yield goal and actually ended up applying less N than would have been recommended for these high yielding crops. This indicates that current N recommendations have some insurance built in for those years when exceptionally high

yields occur. It also supports some of our research findings that have shown some occasional yield reductions where excessive N rates were applied to corn.

In northern areas, Mother Nature reinforced why management details are important. Late plantings, excessive reliance on full season hybrids, and almost any stress factor aggravated the effects of the cool season. This season showed that there is definite risk of frost injury with full season hybrids and their use should be limited accordingly. The season also illustrated some of the risks associated with ear corn.

While the investment in equipment and storage are low, the need for a relatively long field dry down period has the



CORN TALK NEWS

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potential to increase the risk of harvest losses, as many experienced this year. The effects of delaying harvest on harvest losses were also apparent this year. Two severe windstorms and a heavy snowfall in some areas resulted in significant harvest losses associated with down or snow covered corn.

What will next year bring? Who knows? According to one of my colleagues, 1992 was one of the coolest on record and 1991 was one of the warmest. That means 1993 should fall somewhere in between — well, maybe, but after the past several years, I'm not making any predictions.



CORN TALK



CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

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Thursday, February 25
Pest Management In Grain and Forage Crops Seminar, Williamsport H.S., 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Friday, February 26
Grain Crop Production Workshop, Montgomery Co. 4-H Center, Creamery, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2
Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Conference, Ramada Inn, West Middlesex.

Wednesday, March 10
Schuylkill Co. Crops Clinic, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

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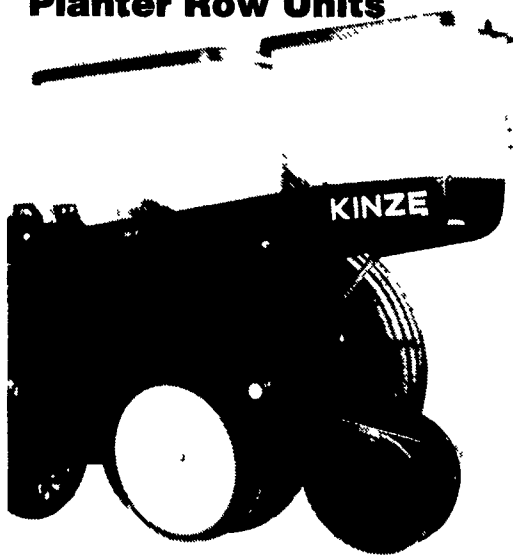
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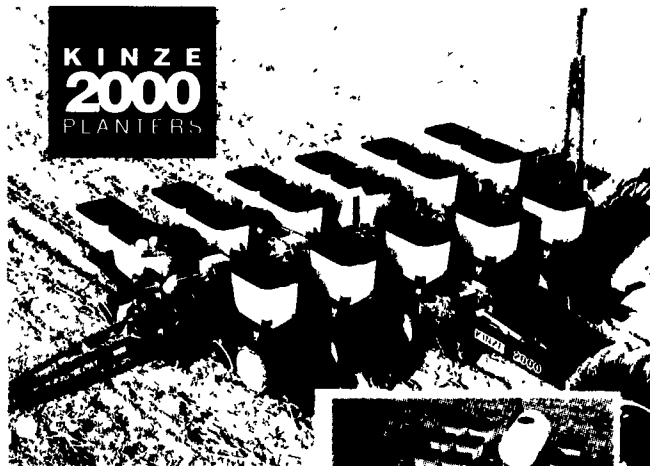
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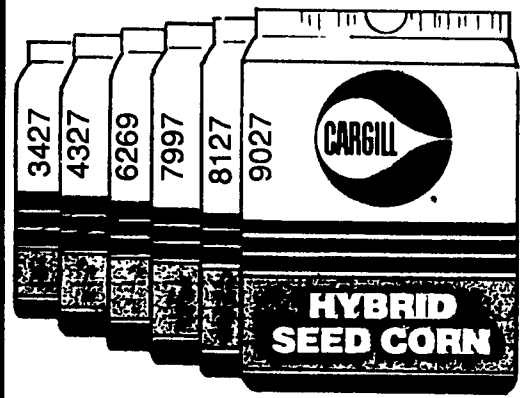
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