

Large Turnout For Dauphin, Lebanon Crops Day



Paul Craig, Dauphin County extension agent, demonstrates the spray width of various boom nozzels.

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — A larger than expected number of crop growers turned out Monday for a crops day seminar at the Lebanon County Extension office, despite poor driving conditions from snowfall which had most schools on at least a two-hour delay and some closed.

Sponsored jointly by the extension services in Lebanon and Dauphin counties, the annual crops day covered a wide variety of topics and also contained two separate classes on pesticide handling and applications which qualified attendees for several pesticide applicator update training credits.

The event was chaired by Kenneth Winebark, Lebanon agent.

Included in the seminar were discussions by Penn State University and Extension experts on residue management and conservation compliance by Joel Myers; a look at the future of corn production, and crop planning strategies by Greg Roth; an ASCS program update by Jennifer Minnich, Lebanon ASCS director; sprayer calibration instruction and a spray table demonstration by Paul Craig; crop planning strategies for nutrient management by Doug Beegle; and a farmer panel on making land allocation decisions.

Myers said that, in managing

residues on fields, take into account the varying field topography and work with USDA's Soil Conservation Service personnel to develop a conservation plan.

He said there are six basic things to checklist: understand the entire plan; make sure that activities fall on schedule in order to stay on track with the plan; request plan revisions from SCS; direct any questions to SCS; and report any changes in the plan to SCS; and document any verbal communications to SCS by writing down the date, time, etc.

Calling it, "One of the most interesting seasons," Greg Roth recapped the condition of the corn crop over the past year.

He talked about the mold and mycotoxin problems to an extent, but he also said that there were other problems which occurred in

record proportions, such as "beer can" ears.

Although the exact cause of some problems can only be guessed, he said that some of the things encountered pointed to frost damages and the effects, hybrids with pushed maturities, reactions to late rye residue toxins, and corn borers.

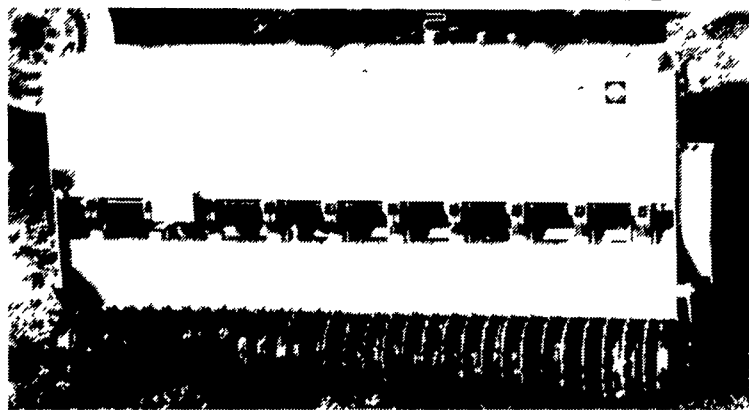
According to Roth, with the "beer can" ears, the corn plant is apparently healthy and fully grown and the ears appear well developed until the husk is pulled back to reveal a stunted cob and in many cases few kernels because of poor pollination.

He said the characteristic was reported in record numbers all across the nation, not just Pennsylvania. He said it may be attributed to damaged caused by late frost
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From the left, Daryl Alger and Richard Kreider are recognized for their corn production in the 5-acre corn contest, each man getting yields in excess of 200 bushels per acre.

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