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car will not be hard to start. In addition, they held training seminars for 500 mechanics to explain what ethanol is and that ethanol has been driven a trillion miles. After the promotion program, 95 percent of the filling stations in Cleveland use an ethanol blend. Nebraska state police have been using ethanol burning vehicles for 12 years.

The follow-up to the Cleveland campaign is to tell everyone about the success of the first campaign. Ethanol reduced carbon monoxide by millions of tons, the gas price did not rise, cars started, and gas mileage did not go down.

"We are taking credit for the ethanol fuels program and what it did to clean up the air in Cleveland, what it did to create jobs, and what it did for the environment," Wagner said.

In Peoria, Illinois, 14 new diesel buses are running on 95 percent pure ethanol. The fuel has 5 percent gasoline so people do not drink it. Ohio corn growers brought one of those buses to their state's ag day and took the governor, press corps and legislators for a ride.

"When you get the press on their knees, smelling tail pipes, and finding there is no carbon coming out, you make a firm believer out of them," Wagner said. This is the message we must tell."

Wagner reported that in testimony in Washington for the Clean Air Act, when Eric Bonn testified for ethanol, he sat a shot glass of pure ethanol and pure gasoline in front of him. At the conclusion of his testimony,

he drank the shot of ethanol. But all the 29 or 30 oil presidents in attendance refused to drink their gasoline. "It would have killed them," Wagner said. "That's the story we must tell."

A unique project for the Ohio corn growers has been the sponsorship of an ethanol burning race car. This "funny car" is driven by Mark Thomas, a farm boy from Canton. Thomas has won three straight world championships with the sponsored car. The corn growers have spent \$32,000, but 62 million people saw Thomas on ESPN and another 400,000 saw him in person. "It's the best project we have done dollar for dollar," Wagner said.

When the Bush administration announced in October that ethanol would be part of reformulated gasoline in the Clean Air Act, "We hit a home run," Wagner said.

"But now a new administration needs to be convinced. Ethanol is a friend of the environment. If we can keep our research data to them, we are going to win. But big oil has 27 full-time lobbyists working in Washington. The National Corn Growers has three persons doing everything.

"Big oil doesn't want to give up their market share, but we only want a small part of it. As we say in our advertisements, '10 percent blend takes 25 percent of the carbon monoxide out.' We think that's a very good trade-off."

Another research project supported by the Ohio corn growers is coal desulfurization. The research is in the later stages and if successful, will be

supported by the coal industry. The process would use 300 million bushels of corn just to desulfurize Ohio coal production. Other states have even more coal than Ohio, and the prospect of major corn usage is great if it works.

Other new corn products in various stages of research and development include a charcoal lighter that comes out as a foam and causes no smoke or odor. Clay pigeons made out of corn starch, bio-degradable bags and fast food packaging are in the works for marketing. Also a road deicer that is completely benign to the underground water and is non-corrosive and a super-absorbent baby diaper can be made from corn.

At the end of his presentation, Wagner gave a dramatic demonstration with a small amount of a corn product powder placed in a glass of water. Within seconds the powder had turned the water into a glob of jelly-like substance with no stickiness or odor. He said one pound of this powder will absorb 1400 pounds of water in 30 seconds, and in 60 seconds it will drink a ton of water.

"The potential for new products made from corn is exciting," Wagner said. "But the challenges are many. Big oil doesn't want to lose its market and Congress isn't interested.

In addition, we have a new administration, and even our neighbors to deal with. No one else is going to help you. We need to join hands as farmers and meet the challenges of the next century."



CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Fall-Kill Best For No-Tilling After Sod

Greg W. Roth

Recently reported research from a farmer-managed trial at the University of Wisconsin has confirmed what many Pennsylvania no-tillers have been seeing already — that corn no-tilled into a fall killed sod is an effective practice.

In studies recently reported in the Journal of Production Agriculture, no-till corn in a fall killed sod was compared to no-till corn in a spring killed sod and to a tillage program. The tillage programs varied depending on the grower involved and ranged from a chisel-disk system to a mold-board plow.

The tests were repeated on six different sites in central and western Wisconsin. Herbicide programs for killing the sod varied but usually included Roundup for the fall kill and split applications of atrazine plus an application of Gramoxone for the spring kill.

Averaged over the six sites, corn yields were highest with the fall kill no-till treatment

(120 bushels/acre), and lowest with the spring kill no-till treatment (98 bushels/acre). Yields using the growers existing tillage program were intermediate (114 bushels/acre).

The researchers attributed most of the yield differences to inconsistent weed control with the spring-applied treatments and an increased potential for soil moisture depletion with the spring-applied herbicide.

Residue cover at planting was greatest for the spring kill system at 72 percent. The fall kill system had a lower, but still acceptable, 53 percent residue coverage under these conditions.

Potential disadvantages of the fall kill no-till system include the need to decide on fields to rotate in the fall and giving up the potential for making a late harvest.

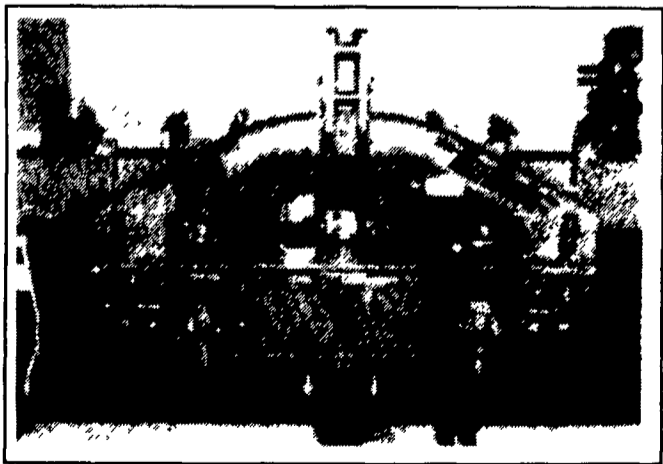
Beside the yield advantages found in this study, the fall kill system here in Pennsylvania has been a very effective way to control the perennial weeds and often results in an excellent seedbed in the spring.

CORN TALK

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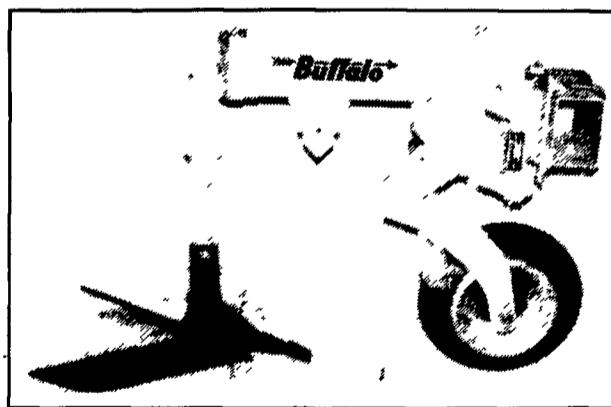


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