

CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

(Continued from Page 26)

three hybrids yielded one bushel more, seven bushels more and 17 bushels more, respectively.

Older Row Width Studies

Between 1974 and 1980, Pioneer agronomists conducted numerous studies comparing corn in 38-inch vs. 30-inch rows. The results of many years and locations of data add more weight to the recent findings in 20-inch vs. 30-inch rows.

Corn Yields in 20- and 30-Inch Rows

(Source: Illinois Agronomy Handbook 1991-1992)

Plants/A	30 Inch Width	20 Inch Width
20,000	165 Bu/A	174 Bu/A
25,000	172	188
30,000	174	187

On the average, corn in 30-inch rows yielded seven bushels per acre or five percent more than in 38-inch rows. This is almost identical to the difference between 20-inch and 30-inch rows in the 1991-1992 studies. Of 27 different environments, only one showed an advantage for 38-inch rows. Even the stress locations showed a 4.5 percent advantage for narrow rows in Pioneer testing.

Results Of Illinois Studies

Studies were conducted by the University of Illinois at three populations — 20,000, 25,000, and 30,000 plants per acre.

According to the Illinois Agronomy Handbook, most studies have shown yield increases of five to eight percent when rows are narrowed from 30 to 30 inches.

Silage Yields

Although data for corn silage in narrow rows is hard to come by, we did have a cooperator who planted three Pioneer varieties at 30-inch and 15-inch row spacings this past growing season. The 15-inch spacing was accomplished by doubling back with a 30-inch planter. Populations were targeted at 40,000 for the 15-inch spacing and 32,000 for the 30-inch spacing. Plant development was

visually identical across row spacings for the same hybrid, and forage analyses showed no significant differences.

As can be seen from the data, there was an average increase of 3.2 tons of silage for the 15-inch/40,000 population treatment versus the 30-inch/32,000 treatment. Although the plot was not set up for rigorous statistical analysis, the results are nonetheless very encouraging.

In summary, a number of studies support the yield advantage of growing corn at high populations in narrow rows, and we can expect this practice to continue in the coming years.

We still need to evaluate such factors as standability, disease and pest interactions, maturation and drydown rates, fertilization, and other relevant topics.

VARIETY	WIDTH	HARVEST POPULATION	MOISTURE	TONS AT 65%
3733	15"	40,000	65.4%	21.21
3733	30"	31,000	66%	19.74
			Advantage	1.47 Ton/Acre
3751	15"	40,000	55.2%	23.90
3751	30"	29,000	58.1%	18.29
			Advantage	5.61 Ton/Acre
3527	15"	39,000	70.2	21.16
3527	30"	27,000	70.6	18.58
			Advantage	2.58 Ton/Acre

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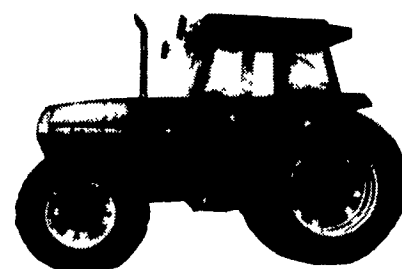
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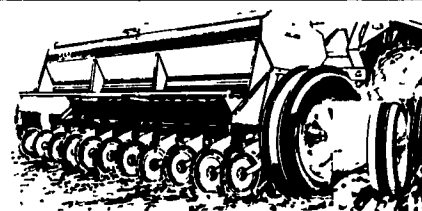
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• NH 36 Flail Chopper
• NH 451 Sickle Bar Mower
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• NH 357 Grinder/Mixer | • Brillion 5 Ft. Landscape Seeder
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PLANTING & TILLAGE
• Case IH 5100 Grain Drill, 20x6, Press Wheels, Seeded 84 Acres
• Brillion 7 Shank Chisel Plow
• (2) Brillion 5 Ft. Wing Packer
• Miller 18 Ft. Disc Harrow, Hyd. Wing Fold
• Brillion 13 Ft. CuttMulcher
• AC 2800 Hyd. Fold Disc
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• JD 8200 Grain Drill
• Brillion 13'6" Cultipacker
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• AC 18 Ft. Wing Disc Harrow
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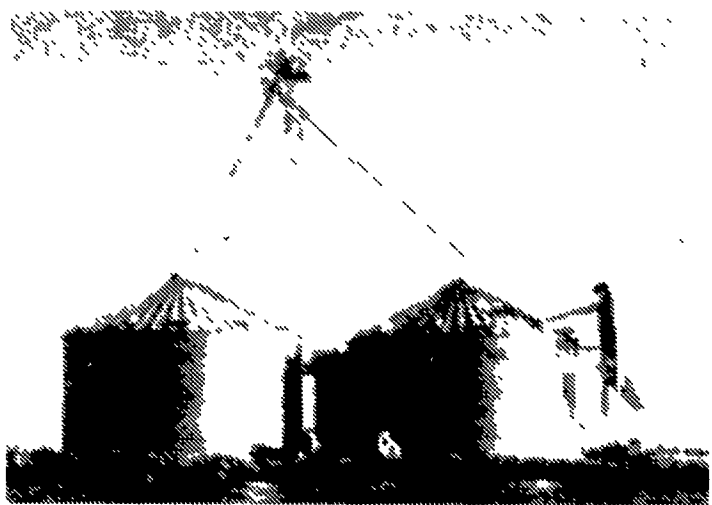
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