



# CORN TALK

## PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 17, 1993—Page 1

### *Trials Prove Corn Herbicides Need Sufficient Rainfall To Work*

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — "It's been a tough year for preplant or preemergent herbicides," said Bill Curran, Penn State weed specialist. "We haven't had consistent rainfall to mobilize them."

Curran spoke to about 80 ag industry representatives, including farmers, who were a part of the annual weed tour on Tuesday at the Penn State Southeast Research Farm.

Many farmers came to see what they knew or suspected already — without adequate rainfall, herbicides aren't very effective, either applied pre-plant or, in some cases, post-emergent to corn.

Curran said that one thing that stands out is that the post-emergent herbicides have proven more effective in controlling weeds in the trials, simply because they are less

weather-dependent — to work, many don't require rainfall.

However, some of the drawbacks to post-'s are that if you don't get them on early enough, they're not going to do an adequate job, said Curran. Farmers must be timely in their application.

Curran showed the tour attendees some of the results in using a rye cover crop in corn to help conserve soil, its use as a possible forage crop, and as a way to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.

Although rye can be an effective cover crop, according to the weed specialist, when it is harvested and how much is taken off will affect no-till corn in different ways.

Four separate plots show the effects of corn with no rye, rye killed early, rye killed at late boot stage, and rye cut off as ryeleg. Also, the plot ex-

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At the annual Landisville Farm Weed Tour Tuesday afternoon, Tracy Lewis, Leland Miller, and Glenn Kerr inspect a site involving triazine programs in reduced-tillage corn. Photo by Andy Andrews.

## The Corn Industry — A Pennsylvania Perspective

**H. Louis Moore**  
Ag Economist  
Penn State

In the early 1980s, Pennsylvania as a corn producer was expanding.

After harvesting a record crop in 1985, the state appears to be declining as a corn producer. Corn acres harvested increased from 943,000 acres in 1970 to 1.3 million acres in

1980 and dropped to 930,000 acres in 1992.

Small grain acreage has declined more than corn in recent years. Wheat acreage dropped 25,000 acres to a new low of 185,000 acres in 1992. Oats acreage dropped 20,000 acres in the same 12 year period. Soybean acreage, however, tripled to 285,000 acres.

Acreage is only part of the

story of grain production. Yields have increased dramatically in recent decades, offsetting some of the decrease in acreage. In 1992 the per acre yield of corn in Pennsylvania was 117 bushels, a record. In 1980 the average yield was 75 bushels. By contrast, the yield per acre nationally was only 41.8 bushels in 1952. Forty years later (1992) the national yield per acre was 131.4 bushels.

Pennsylvania has in recent years ranked 15th among the states in corn production. We should maintain this ranking for some time into the future. North Carolina is the 16th state

but produced only 98.8 million bushels in 1992 compared to Pennsylvania's crop of 118.8 million bushels. Pennsylvania produces about 1.2 percent of the nation's corn for grain.

With the production of most major grain crops declining, Pennsylvania is becoming more dependent on grain shipped in from other states. In 1980, Pennsylvania ranked 29th in cash receipts from crops. By 1992 the commonwealth has gained one position, moving to 28th. In 1992, Pennsylvania ranked 12th in cash receipts from marketing of livestock and livestock products, the same ranking as in

1980. According to these figures, Pennsylvania is among the nation's leading livestock states. We have the nation's 4th largest dairy industry and growing poultry and hog segments.

What about the future? Prospects for some price improvement for corn look good. U.S. feed grain production this year is projected to be at least 30 million tons less than in 1992. Harvested acreage will be down and yields will drop sharply from a year ago. Flood losses are only speculative at this time but will be substantial.

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**Corn Talk News**

**RESEARCH UPDATE**

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**CORN TALK NEWS**

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

**USEFULNESS OF PSNT FOLLOWING ALFALFA IN WISCONSIN**

**Greg Roth**  
**Doug Beegle**  
Penn State Agronomists

A 4-year study at the University of Wisconsin recently published in the Journal of Production Agriculture revealed that the presidedress soil nitrogen test (PSNT) often overestimates the nitrogen (N) require-

ments for corn grown following alfalfa.

In this study, researchers L.G. Bundy and T. W. Andraski of the University of Wisconsin measured the response of corn to N at 24 sites between 1988 and 1991. At each site, corn followed alfalfa and a sample to 1 foot was taken when the corn was 6 to 12 inches tall.

Where no fertilizer was applied to the corn, the PSNT

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### *Corn Tour Featured At Hughesville*

**BY CAROL PEARCE**  
Bradford Co. Correspondent  
HUGHESVILLE (Bradford Co.) — The host of the Hughesville Crop Expo 93, on Friday, July 9, was MunCre Farm, owned by Lester Poust.

The corn tour started with a discussion on corn uniformity, populations, and row spacing. A look at the effect of corn plant populations from 24,000 plants per acre (ppa), to 32,000 ppa and the effect it has on the yield was illustrated by Greg Roth from Penn State. On this site, the corn looked very good from the 24,000 ppa up to 32,000 ppa, but there are a few problems with the increased population. There was a yellowing at

the bottom of some of the corn plants, and there is the corn that is late emerging, which causes the rows to be uneven.

Corn plants that have an

upright leaf are better in the higher population than the other varieties whose leaves may spread out.

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Doug Beegle, Penn State, with nitrogen information.