Corn Featured In National Geographic

Greg Roth

An excellent article entitled "Com, the Golden Grain" was recently published in the June 1993 issue of National Geographic magazine.

The article provides a history of the development of modern corn and traces its history back to Native Americans in Mexico. It also touches on some of the most recent research advances being made with the crop, including plant breeding for European Corn Borer resistance and the development of new products being made with corn.

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A new product success story described in the article is the biodegradable packing peanut. One company, American Excelsior, sold more than \$4 million dollars worth of these biodegradable packing peanuts last year.

The article is loaded with excellent photographs, such as the one of the Corn Palace — an attraction in Mitchell, S.D. The authors interviewed growers with contrasting philosophies — one who harvests 6,000 acres with a \$120,000 combine and another who harvests 60 acres by hand. His only invest-

ment is 88 cents an acre for husking gloves.

If you'd like a good background reference, or just some good reading, I'd recommend getting a copy of the article. The issue also contains an article on the Chesapeake Bay with some interesting comments about the effects of Pennsylvania agriculture.

It would take 373,134,320 pick-up truck loads to deliver 50-billion bushels of corn. End to end they would reach to the moon and back 3.5 times, reports the U.S. Feed Grains Council.



Delaware Unveils New Nitrogen Program For Corn

NEWARK, Del. — Efficient nitrogen management is critical to optimize economic yields and avoid nitrate contamination of groundwater when growing corn in Delaware.

But maximizing crop recovery of fertilizer and manure nitrogen can be challenging because of the state's unpredictable weather conditions, varied cropping practices and sandy, leachable soils.

Corn farmers should find the task easier this year, with the help of an improved nitrogen management program that has been developed by researchers and extension professionals in the University of Delaware's department of plant and soil sciences.

Details of the program are explained in three new fact sheets: "Advances in Nitrogen Management for Corn in Delaware," "Use of the Leaf Chlorophyll Meter for Nitrogen Management of Corn," and soil test note 14 on "Pre-Sidedress Soil Nitrate Test for Corn."

"The recommendations outlined in these fact sheets have the potential to greatly improve the profitability and environmental efficiency of nitrogen management of com in Delaware," said Dr. Tom Sims, a professor of soil fertility and soil chemistry.

The recommendations are the result of five years of field trials in experimental plots at the university's Research and Education Center and more than 50 on-farm studies.

Components of the new nit-

rogen management program include the use of realistic yield goals based on actual onfarm records and results from university corn-hybrid trials, use of the appropriate nitrogen rate for corn, and avoiding unnecessary preplant nitrogen applications.

In-season nitrogen applications are guided by new soil and plant nitrogen tests and revised yield goals are determined by actual plant populations, weather, and insect and disease pressures. Two other components of the program are field-scale trip-trial experiments and accurate yield records relative to the nitrogen applied.

The fact sheets describing this program are available at county extension offices in Newark (302) 831-2506, Dover (302) 697-4000 and Georgetown (302) 856-7303.

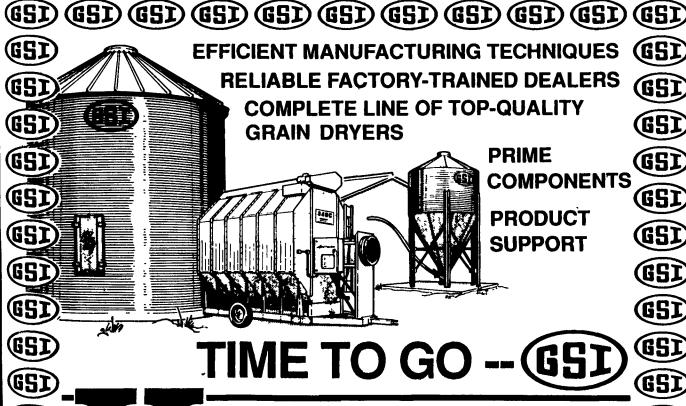
The United States is the world leader in corn production, producing 9.3 billion bushels, or, 46 percent of the world total in 1992. In 1993, the United States will export its 50-billionth bushel of corn, reports the U.S. Feed Grains Council.

How many kernels are there in 50 billion bushels of com? According to the U.S. Feed Grains Council, there are 5.02 quadrillion kernels. In 1993, the United States will export its 50-billionth bushel of com.

In 1993 the U.S. will export its 50-billionth bushel of corn, reports the U.S. Feed Grains Council. 50-billion bushels of corn loaded in 100-unit trains, would make 47 trips the length of the Mississippi River.

Twenty-eight percent of the 1992 U.S. corn crop was exported, leading all agricultural export commodities in value and volume. The U.S. Feed Grains Council reports that in 1993 the United States will export its 50-billionth bushel of corn.





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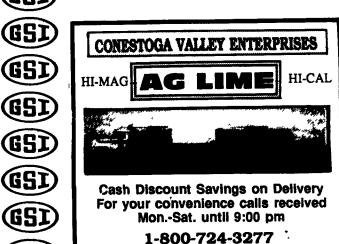
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