

# CORN TALK

## PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 29, 1994

### These Corn Growers Reach 200 Bushels In National Corn Contest

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

MORGANTOWN (Berks Co.) — When you grow more than 200 bushels of corn per acre, you have a good year. That's what Paul and son Ernest Mast did this year in the National Corn Growers contest in the irrigated division. But they don't look at themselves as professional corn growers. In fact, they are probably more well known for their potatoes.

"We like to get things done on time," Paul said. "We think that's important. Every day your are late in planting, you loose a little production. It costs as much to plant or harvest late as it does to do it on time. In fact, for harvest, it costs more. We would even hire extra help to get it done on time if we had to."

Ernest thinks another reason for good production is the rotation of crops. They never plant corn on corn because potatoes and wheat are also in their crop rotation. Sometimes they plant soybeans to

increase the fertility of the soil. With good soil fertility and enough water, the Masts believe you can plant heavy populations. They average about 30,000 to 32,000 plants per acre.

The Masts have irrigation equipment for their potatoes so they also use it on their corn. But the investment would be too great for only corn. "If you invest in equipment you need to use it," Paul said. "I don't know if I would do it just for corn, but you must irrigate the higher risk crops like potatoes. I believe the quality of the crop improves with irrigation because the crop matures at the right time."

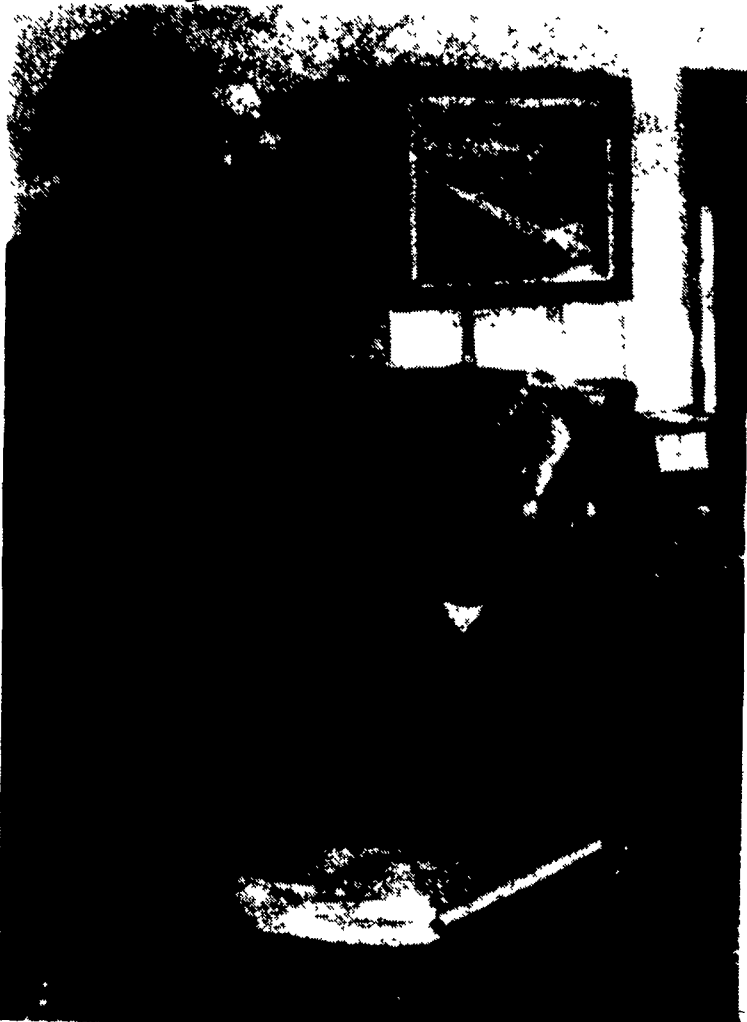
With 200 steers on feed, 30 acres of corn is put into the silos. Wheat is stored until corn harvest, then sold to make room for the corn. The corn is then stored unto mid-winter when the price is usually stronger.

The Masts also grow some pumpkins and have four acres of

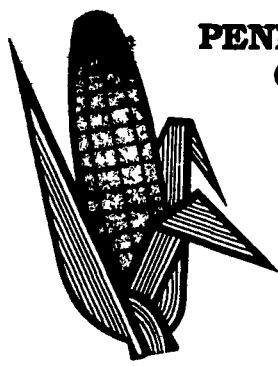
strawberries they sell retail from a roadside market along Route 23.

The farm house dates back to 1767 when settlers of Welsh background settled in the area known as the Welsh mountains. An antique corner cupboard and fireplace mantel are displayed in the Metropolitan museum of art in New York City. These priceless treasures were sold out of the house during the Great Depression to a local antique dealer to raise money to buy mules so the farming operation could continue. Jacob Mast, Paul's father, needed the money at the time. Times were hard and you did anything you could do to keep going.

As for the controversy of agriculture against the environment, Paul believes agriculture is good for the environment. This is especially evident if you are hungry. "It's tough to eat a tree," he said. "And chemicals cost so much, you can't afford to use more than necessary. Environmentalists should know this."



Paul, seated, and son Ernest Mast check crop production records at their farm kitchen table. The Masts achieved a goal of more than 200 bushels of corn per acre in the National Corn Growers contest in the Irrigated division.



### PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

#### President's Message

H. Grant Troop  
President, PMCGA



Here we are at mid-winter already. We've had our share of frozen precipitation. As I gaze across the fields and farms down the valley, I stand in amazement that an area looking so desolate yet enchanting in winter is so productive and scenic by summer. I am in awe at the creative works of our great God.

With the Farm Show behind us, we now turn to winter chores such as fixing, maintaining, or rebuilding equipment, and to winter meetings with topics covering most every enterprise or activity with which we are involved in the field of agriculture or ag business. We use winter meetings to fine-tune management, to assess quality control, to gain exposure to new emerging technologies.

It is the time of year to ask the "what if's" and to make projections for the coming year, and to visit with friends and acquaintances (this is the best part).

We find ourselves rehashing the figures that lead us to the bottom line. Can I reduce input

costs? And can I increase output? Are two often asked and always linked questions as we strive for maximum economic yield which translates into maximum economic return if we do a good job of marketing.

We would also like to announce our new Membership Incentive Plan. Any corn grower who plants five or more acres of corn is eligible for a free bag of seed corn with the purchase of a three-year membership in PMCGA/NCGA, new or renewal.

Response from seed corn companies has been overwhelming, and a list of participating companies will be included on the application form so you can choose the brand you would like to try.

The theme for the PMCGA Membership Incentive Program is "Try Something New," and we hope you do. We are working hard to increase our membership and the value of your memberships has never been greater. Sign-ups for this

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### Soil Compaction Theme Of Conference

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Managing and correcting soil compaction will be one of the topics addressed at this year's Pennsylvania Corn Conference, scheduled for Feb. 4 at the Lancaster Host Resort.

Randall Reeder, extension engineer at Ohio State University, will address this topic for Pennsylvania growers who often are forced to deal with compaction as a result of late

season harvesting or manure hauling.

According to Reeder, heavy loads of 10 to 20 tons per axle can have different effects depending on soil moisture, soil type, tire pressure, and other factors. His research shows that compaction may have no effect on yields or can cost as much as 100 dollars per acre.

Low pressure tires, subsoil- (Turn to Page 4)



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#### Farm Calendar

- Monday, January 31**  
Jefferson/Clearfield Dairy/Crops Day, Ramada Inn, DuBois, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday, February 4**  
Pennsylvania Corn Conference, Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster.
- 1994 Delaware Agricultural Outlook Conference For Grain Producers, Sheraton Inn, Dover, Del.
- Monday, February 7**  
Integrated Crop Production Workshop, Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, continues Feb. 14 and 21.
- Blair/Huntingdon Crops Day, Fire Hall, Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Adams County Crops and Soils Day, Extension Office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 8**  
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 11**  
Cumberland County Crops Day, Walnut Bottom Fire Hall, Walnut Bottom, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

- Franklin County Crops and Soil Day, Lemasters Community Center, 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 15**  
Corn Production Satellite Conference, Lancaster County and other extension offices.
- Wednesday, February 16**  
Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md.
- Thursday, February 17**  
Cecil County, Md. Agronomy Day, Calvert Grange, Calvert, Md.
- Sunday, February 27**  
NCGA Corn Classic, Denver, Colo., thru March 1.
- Thursday, March 3**  
Tri-County Soybean and Small Grain meeting, Shippensburg, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10**  
Schuylkill County Crops Clinic, Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven.
- Wednesday, March 16**  
Three-County Agronomy School, Gratz Fire Hall, Gratz.