

rvest p-59 acres): Harold Wiser, Girhand ted 1,189 tons of usable fruit i3.7 a es for a 22.2 ton per acre averame. (ohl; Wiser; Steve Wiser; and field epresentative.

narket 25-28 ton/acre harvest. n base "With some enhancements and "With some enhancements and refinements, we can stay on California's heel from a yield point of view," said Bennett. O mil. His experience with Ohio toma-

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His experience with Ohio tomato yield information proves that Pennsylvania's situation is similar — growers here will average about



Class 3 Machine Harvest (25-39 acres): Nelson Ginder, Mount Joy, center, harvested 857 tons of usable fruit for Furman Foods from 30 acres for a 28.5 ton per acre average yield. From left, James Kohl; Ginder; and Dwight Hess, Furman field representative.

\$60-\$80/ton for their product, which is several dollars per ton higher than California.

But a lot of the potential income for growers depends on where canners and processors locate plants, according to Bennett.

"Can we stay competitive with

California?" he said. "Yes, I think we'll find our niche."

Bennett said that it may be "shooting for the moon" to get an 80+/ton per acre yield. But 60/ton per acre may be feasible, with the right rainfall, soil type, varieties, fertility, and other conditions.



Class 4 Machine Harvest (15-24 acres): Marlin L. Cassel, Manheim, center, harvested 657 tons for Furman Foods on 19 acres for a 34.5 tons per acre average yield. From left, James Kohi; Cassel; and Dwight Hess, Furman field representative.

But the strides made in biotechnology are helping to make the real difference.

He said that products that are the result of industry research and development have proved beneficial to many growers.



## **Tomato** awards

At the conference on Tuesday, awards were presented to area tomato growers at the Tomato Awards Luncheon.

The State Champion Tomato Growers' Club recognized the following growers:

 Class 1 Machine Harvest (60+ acres): Cliff Charles, Lancaster. harvested 2,648 tons of usable fruit for Furman Foods from 80 acres for a 33.1 ton per acre average yield. Varieties grown in twin rows were Peto 696, Ohio 8245, and Early Pear. The transplants were planted from April 30 to May 22, 1993, at a population of 12,500 plants per acre with a 3-row twin cup planter. Charles follows a three-year rotation --- tomatoes follow a com-bean or com-com rotation. Lime and fertilizer were applied according to soil test recommendations. Trickle irrigation was used on 30 acres of tomatoes resulting in a 36 ton per acre yield, while an overhead traveler was used on a 37-acre field producing a 35 ton/acre yield. A pesticide program was followed.

• Class 2 Machine Harvest (40-59 acres): Harold Wiser, Girard, harvested 1,189 tons of usable fruit for Furman Foods on 53.7 acres for a 22.2 ton per acre average vield. Varieties grown were Peto 696, Peto 2196, and Ohio 7983. Bareroot transplants were planted at a population of 13,000 plants per acre with a plant spacing of 16 inches in the row, 17 inches between double rows on 66-inch centers. A two-year crop rotation is used with tomatoes consisting of tomato-soybean-tomato. Fertilizer was applied as needed. A pesticide program was followed.

• Class 3 Machine Harvest (25-39 acres): Nelson Ginder, Mount Joy, harvested 857 tons of usable fruit for Furman Foods from 30 acres for a 28.5 ton per (Turn to Page A23)



Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 5, 1994-A21

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Always read and follow label detections. Rounduat<sup>a</sup> is a registered trademark of Monsanto © 1994 Monsanto Company "Based on suggested price at 1 Spt/acre – RUP-4-34811 Dr. Mark Bennett, associate professor, vegetable crops, Ohlo State University, spoke about the future of the processing tomato industry in the East at the conference.