



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 19, 1994

Prize-Winning Berks Corn Farmers Share Secrets



Some of the members of the Schantz family gather for a group photo. From left, Kathy holds Nathan, 1, Dave, Burd and Matthew, 6. Absent from the photo were daughter Megan, in school, and Burd's wife, Joyce.

CONNIE LEINBACH
Berks Co. Correspondent
HUFF CHURCH (Berks Co.) — The secret to Burd and his son David Schantz's continually winning categories of the Pennsylvania corn contest is available to most any farmer.

"We have endless amounts of manure," said Burd with a laugh about his high-yielding corn. Burd won first place in the ear corn three-year average class by the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club contest.

Prizes were awarded recently at the annual Pennsylvania Corn Conference in Lancaster.

Burd, of Alburts R.D. 1, had an average yield of 200.8 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3358, 3245 and 3352. Son David, also of Alburts R.D. 1, won the one-year ear corn class,

hand harvest size with a yield of 205.9 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3358.

"You can see the difference (in the yield) when you put on the manure," Burd said.

And there's plenty of it to use on the corn crop since the Schantz's have 175 registered Holsteins. Including heifer's and calves, the herd swells to 375 head. His rolling herd average of milk is 19,000 pounds.

"It's a lot of manure to put on the ground," Burd said, "but we try to get it in the right fields."

They don't do anything extra other than add manure on the two five-acre plots of land on which they grow corn for the contest. This regimen is the same the Schantz's use for all 250 to 300 acres of corn they

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Good Field Conditions Pay Off In Award-Winning Corn Harvest

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Using better judgement, corn farmer Matthew Maximuck and his father Walter waited until it was just right — until the fields were dry enough to work their no-till planter in mid-May — before planting corn.

Waiting payed off big when they were able to harvest an average of 203.92 bushels per acre from a 10-acre parcel of rented land near Solebury, garnering a first place award in the state in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) yield contest.

Matthew, Walter, and Sally Maximuck — in addition to Matthew's wife Cheryl and children Matt Jr., 11 and Melissa, 13 — farm about 1,100 acres of land on 25 separate farms in the rapidly urbanized area near Doylestown. Their cash-cropping operation devotes about 550 acres to growing corn, about 70 percent of which is in no-till and the rest minimum tillage. The remaining acreage includes about 400-500 acres of soybeans, 100-150 acres of wheat, and the rest hay.

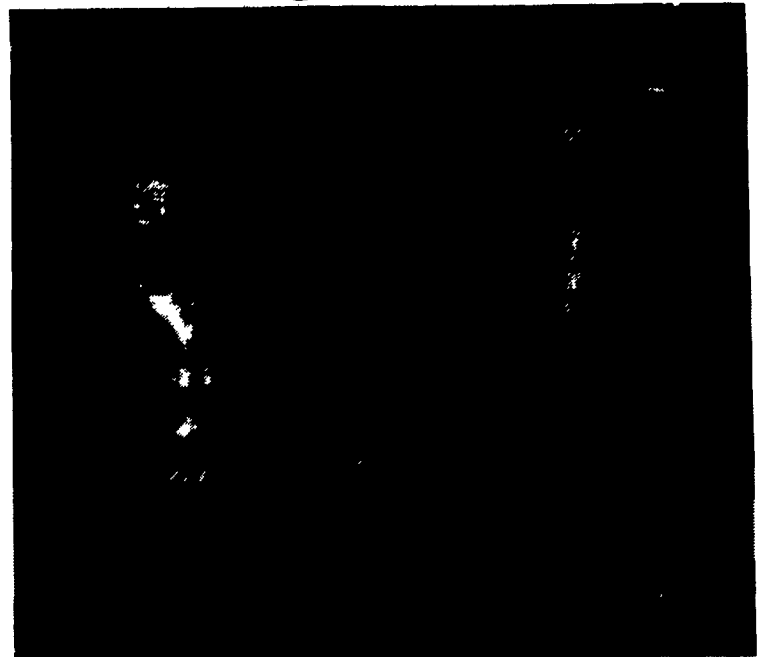
According to Matthew, it was a combination of looking for the right planting conditions

and getting the right weather at critical moments that pushed the harvest way up above the Maximuck's previous record last year of 189 bushels per acre.

"We try to stay out of the fields when they're wet," said Matthew. "We might be sitting another day longer than a lot of other people in the area."

Matthew said many farmers see others planting early, and decide that maybe it is time to plant. He said that, years ago, when he was young and farming with his father, he would often suggest going in early to plant. But his father would tell

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The biggest highlight of the NCGA events and other farm meetings is "talking to the people," said Matthew, right. He attributes a lot of his success to listening to father, Walter, left, to learn about growing corn.

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy
Assistant Professor



PRODUCING CORN PROFITABLY IN 1994

Good corn prices mean corn growers may have another opportunity to make money this year. It also means, however, that livestock producers need to grow their corn as efficiently as possible to hold down feed costs.

To increase your chances of success, be sure to consider some of the basics of profitable

corn production listed below as you finalize your plans and progress through the season.

1. Field selection. Before you crop a piece of land, be sure to "farm it on paper" before investing your hard earned cash. Generally, returns from production should at least cover variable or "out of pocket" costs, to establish and harvest the crop. For corn, those costs and land rent can often exceed \$200, meaning that a 70-80 bushel yield potential or more

may be necessary just to pay for those expenses.

2. Crop rotation. This age-old practice can contribute to higher yields, lower N requirements, and lower insecticide needs. It may also help with control of those nasty perennial weeds. While rotated corn on your farm may be limited because of feed requirements or government programs, corn grown on rotated ground can often be produced from 30-50

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5-Acre Corn Club Winners Announced

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Awards were presented to the state's top corn growers from the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club at the recent Pennsylvania Corn Conference.

In the three-year average, shelled grain class, regular harvest size, first place went to Joseph Matejik, Mechanicsville, with an average yield of 186.5 bushels/acre using Hytest 736 and 7728; second to Larry Moyer, Mertztown, with an average of 183.2 bushels/acre using Doeblers' 66XP and 73XP; and third to Ed Snook,

Jersey Shore, for an average of 181.1 bushels/acre with Pioneer 3352 and 3293.

In the 3-acre+ harvest size, first went to D. Richard Snyder, Montoursville, for an average of 175.3 bushels/acre using Funk's 4624 and Pioneer 3245; second to Lester C. Wingert, Chambersburg, with an average of 169.7 bushels/acre using Pioneer 3140; and third to Daryl L. Alger, Palmyra, with an average of 161.6 bushels/acre using Pioneer 3241, 3293, and 3394.

In the ear corn class, regular (Turn to Page 2)