

CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Northumberland Farmers Win Corn Growing Contest

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WATSONTOWN (Northumberland Co.) — "I treat my crops like I would a baby—I make sure they are never short on the nutrients they need to grow," said Jody Hock of Kevin-Charles Farm when talking about the keys to raising good corn.

With his partner and brother-in-law Lance Gresh, Hock grew corn yielding 212.4 bushels per acre in 1994, which earned them the first place award in the three-acre plus harvest size, shelled grain class of the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association contest.

Watching the planter (a John Deere 7200 six-row) closely to make sure it is functioning properly during planting is also important to Hock. He checks for seed depth of 1-1 1/4 inches and no skippers in the 30-inch rows. As a result, there were 25,522 plants per acre on the award-winning plot.

Since they started crop farming four years ago, Hock and Gresh have tried several varieties of corn hybrids, but they settled on Pioneer as their preference. The winning plot was Pioneer 3293. Using Pioneer hybrids on 99 percent of their 265 acres of crop ground, they got overall yield averages of 160 bushels per acre of corn and 43 bushels per acre of soybeans.

The partners now have a 50-50 rotation with corn and soybeans going on their ground, which has sandy loam soil on the home farm and heavy clay on the 90-acre rented farm. The rented ground is in half-acre contour strips, as it is very hilly. All their crop acreage was laid out according to a Soil Conservation Service plan.

Using advice from Kepner's Farm Supply for crop planning, Hock and Gresh fertilize mostly with 8-32-16 starter, side-

dressing with nitrogen and top-dressing potash and lime as needed according to soil tests. They no-till bean stubble acreage and mostly chisel plow the rest for better weed control.

From the Corn Growers Association guidelines, they can choose the best time for marketing their crops. They have a storage capacity of 36,000 bushels.

Hock learned about crop raising from working with Northumberland County farm-

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on December 1, 1994 was 104.1 million bushels, up 13 percent from December 1, 1993.

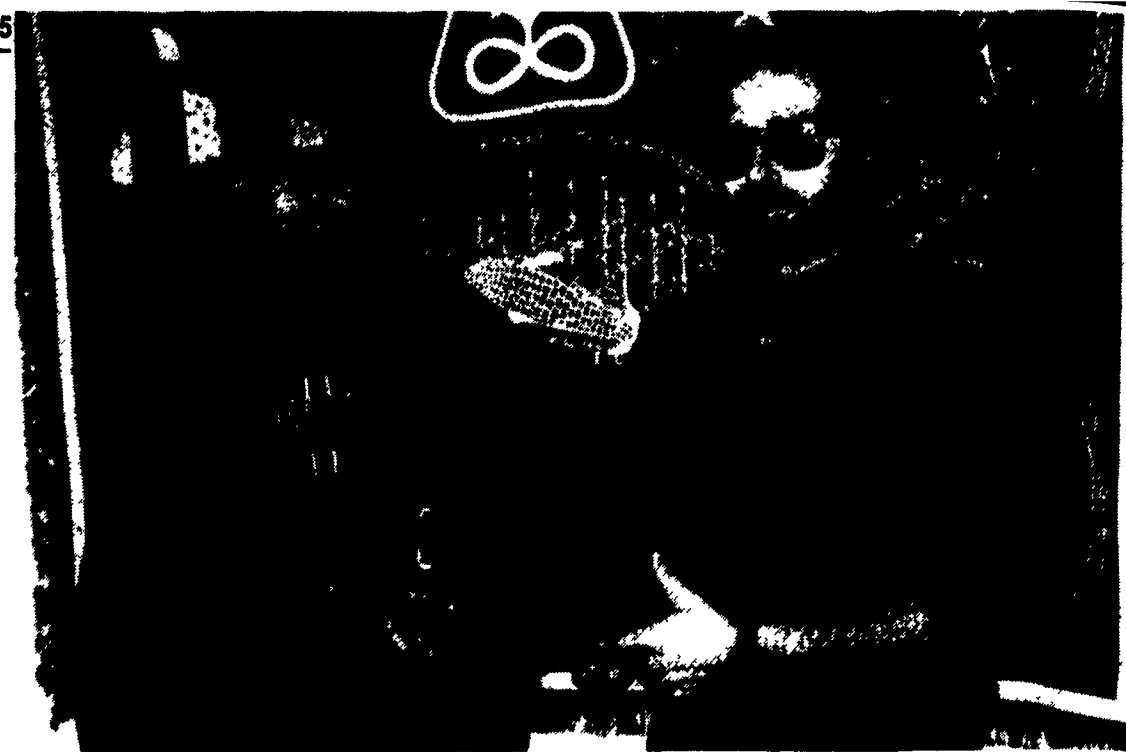
On-farm corn stocks amounted to 95.0 million bushels, while off-farm stocks were 9.1 million bushels. Wheat stored off farms totaled 6.1 million bushels. Soybeans stored off farms totaled 2.9 million bushels. Barley stored off farms was 1.2 million bushels. Oats stored in all positions was 6.0 million bushels, 5.3 million on-farm and 735 thousand off-farm.

Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of wheat, soybeans and barley are not published separately but instead are included with an unallocated national total.

Hay stocks on-farms on December 1, 1994 were estimated at 2.72 million tons, up 10 percent from a year ago.

On December 1, 1994, there were 248 off-farm storage facilities (mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors) with a total grain storage capacity of 28.9 million bushels, down 9 percent from December 1, 1993.

On December 1, 1994, on-farm storage capacity was 160 million bushels, 6 percent less



Lance Gresh, left and Jody Hock show their award from the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association for top production in the 3-acre plus harvest size shelled grain class.

ers Donald Beaver and Gerald Shoop after graduating from

high school, while Gresh was taught by his fathers from

whom Hock and Gresh bought their farm.

Pa. Corn Stocks Reviewed

than December 1, 1993.

Nationally, corn stocks in all positions on December 1, 1994 was estimated at 8.08 billion bushels, 36 percent more than on December 1, 1993. On-farm stocks totaled 5.42 billion bushels, 42 percent more than last year. Off-farm stocks were 2.66 billion bushels, up 25 percent from last year.

All wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1994 are estimated at 1.50 billion bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. Wheat stored on farms was 576 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 920 million bushels, 1 percent below last year.

Soybeans in all storage positions on December 1, 1994 totaled 2.10 billion bushels, up 34 percent from December 1, 1993. Farm stocks totaled 986 million bushels, 41 percent above last year. Off-farm stocks are placed at 1.12 billion bushels, 27 percent above a

year ago.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1994 totaled 279 million bushels, 16 percent below stocks a year ago. On-farm stocks totaled 166 million bushels, 14 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were 113 million bushels, 19 percent below last year.

U.S. hay stocks on farms on December 1, 1994 are estimated to be 104.4 million tons,

3 percent above a year ago.

The total number of off-farm storage facilities in the U.S. on December 1, 1994 was 11,595 with a total grain storage capacity of 8.38 billion bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago.

On-farm grain storage capacity on December 1, 1994 for the United States was 11.5 billion bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Pa. Master Corn Growers Association



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