

Top Pa. Soybean Growers Honored

SALISBURY, Md. — The yields were not bin busters, but for three Pennsylvania soybean producers, they were enough to capture the top three spots in the state's second annual soybean yield competition.

The competition, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board, climaxed in mid-January at the Pennsylvania Crops Conference in Carlisle with the presentation of trophies to Gary E. Truckenmiller of Watertown (Northumberland County), Clifton Swartz of Danville (Columbia County), and Charles Chilcoat of Seven Valleys (York County).

Truckenmiller topped the competition with a yield of 61.8 bushels an acre. He planted Asgrow 3935 seed in 7.5-inch rows with a no-till drill.

Swartz's yield was 58.7 bushels an acre. He also planted no-till, using Dekalb 415 in 15-inch rows.

For Chilcoat, it was his second consecutive year in third place. He drilled Chemgro 4039 seed in 7-inch rows following minimum tillage.

His yield in 1994 — of 57.2 bushels an acre — was indicative of the yields overall in the competition. Chilcoat was third in 1993 with a yield of 69.4 bushels, and the top yield in '93 was 74.8 bushels an acre.

John Yocum, Penn State senior research associate stationed at the Lancaster Research Center who is in charge of the competition, said

his only disappointment was the final number of participating growers.

About 75 farmers had asked for applications for the program, Yocum said, but only eight submitted entries.

"I certainly would like to boost the participation next year," he said.

The competition is open to any Pennsylvania farmer who grows five or more acres of soybeans within the state's boundaries. The contest is restricted to non-irrigated beans but there are no restrictions on varieties, fertilization, row spacing or other cultural practices.

Farmers are asked to enlist the help of an independent "designated representative," such as their county ag agent, to measure the three-acre contest block, supervise the harvest and calculate the yield.

It is perhaps the necessity to prepare for the competition and to

have things in place when harvest time arrives — "when it's time to get the combine in there, that's when you do it," Yocum said — that may discourage some growers.

But the fact remains, he said, that '94 was "a good year for soybeans" in Pennsylvania and that, based on his conversations with some growers, some fields slated for entry in this year's competition may have produced yields in excess of the 61.8 bushels an acre which awarded Truckenmiller the winning trophy.

"But you have to play to win," said Yocum, "and we'd certainly like to get more players for the 1995 competition."

Contest rules and entry forms for '95 may be obtained by writing Yocum at P.O. Box 308, Landisville, PA 17538.

Farmers are asked to file with Yocum a notice of intent to participate each year no later than Aug. 15.



Winners of the 1994 Pennsylvania soybean yield competition, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board, received their plaques at the recent crop conference in Carlisle. They are from left, Clifton Swartz, Columbia County, second place; Gary Truckenmiller, Northumberland County, first place; and Charles Chilcoat, York County, third place.

Beef Expo To Feature Junior Activities

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Junior activities will again take center stage at the annual Pennsylvania Beef Expo.

Headlining this year's list of activities is the Skillathon, which will be held Saturday, March 22 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Small Arena at the Farm Show Complex.

The Skillathon is an excellent

opportunity for junior cattlemen to test their beef industry knowledge and learn important skills needed to be a successful cattle producer. By incorporating project skills and industry basics in a series of mini-learning stations, participants can test their abilities in areas such as identification of beef breeds, retail cuts, feed ingredients, quality

assurance practices, food safety, EPD evaluations, and management decision making. The entire contest will take approximately 35 to 45 minutes to complete, with eight minutes at each station.

In addition to the Skillathon, this year's Expo will also include a beef judging competition at 8 a.m. and a beef quiz bowl at 6:30

p.m. on March 11. Upon completion of the junior competitions, everyone is invited to attend the barn party and dance, where dinner can be purchased.

All competitions are open to all members of the Pennsylvania Junior Cattlemen's Association, 4-H, and FFA. Divisions for the skillathon include senior (16 to 21), intermediate (12 to 15), and junior (8 to 11). Judging and quiz bowl competitions include two divisions, senior (14 to 21) and junior (8 to 13). County, club, or school teams consisting of four members in one division are also invited to participate.

For more information and registration, contact Tammy Balthaser at (800) 572-2020 by March 1.

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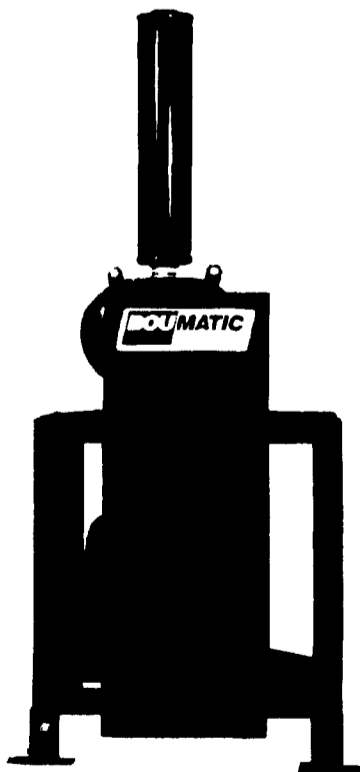


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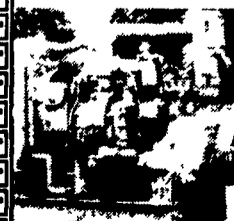
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