



# CORN TALK

## PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 18, 1995

### Kreider Sets 210 Bushels Per Acre As Yield Goal

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff  
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.)

— Richard Kreider has one goal in mind: 210 bushels of corn this year.

How he will work to achieve that yield goal will depend on several factors that he can control, such as seed selection and soil fertility.

Only one thing remains out of his control: the weather.

That's why he subscribes to a weather tracking system, which allows him to monitor approaching storms through use of heavily sophisticated radar systems which are broadcast via satellite right into his office.

It's this reliance on high

technology, including a new computerized business record system, that allows him to compete with several larger farms in the Lebanon Valley area.

This year, Kreider said, he aims to achieve the first place that has eluded him on the Pennsylvania Five Acre Corn Club contest for three-year average awards since 1986 — the last time he placed first in the contest.

In 1995, he said, "I'm just going to try to do the best I can and hope the weather cooperates," he said. "I'm still going to shoot for my yield goals of 200-plus. When I plant the field, I'm going to have that in mind."

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Kreider, who inspects his awards, said that using the right kind of seed corn helped, used in conjunction with proper fertility. He soils tests regularly. He aims to place down roughly a unit of nitrogen per bushel of corn as his yield goal.

### For Crists, Hybrid And Weather Help Ensure Winning Yields

JERSEY SHORE (Lycoming Co.) — Choosing the right hybrid and then getting the right weather worked hand in hand to ensure three first-place finishes for the Crist family in the 1994 Pennsylvania Five Acre Corn Club contest.

David Crist captured first place in the shelled grain class, regular harvest size. Mark Crist took first place ear corn class, hand harvest. John Crist had a first place in the ear corn machine harvest class.

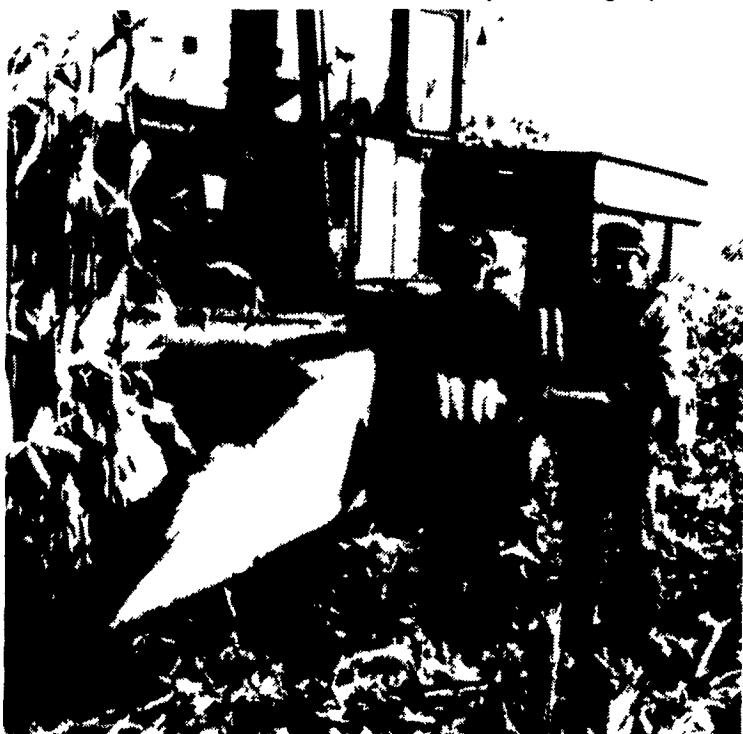
The Crists manage several farms in the Jersey Shore region, maintaining about 300

acres. Of that, 180 acres is devoted to corn production and a majority of it is seed corn. The remaining acreage is split between soybean production, vegetable production, and alfalfa hay.

The Crists also finish about 100 head of beef cattle per year, which they sell at the Jersey Shore Livestock Auction.

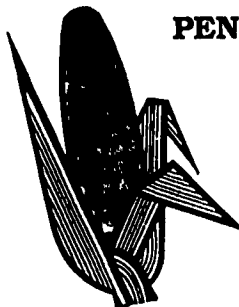
Selecting the right hybrids and good weather conditions worked hand in hand to ensure contest-winning yields, according to John Crist. "When three varieties break 200 bushels per

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John Crist, left and Mark Crist placed first in the ear corn, machine harvest class in the state corn club contest.

#### PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



*Between The Rows*

Dr. Greg Roth  
Penn State Agronomy  
Assistant Professor



#### COUNTDOWN TO CORN PLANTING

In just about a month from now or less, the corn planting season begins and the excitement and challenges of a new season will be with us.

As most management decisions involved in corn production are made before planting, the "countdown" stage we are entering into now is one of the most critical of the year. Careful planning and decision making now can have on dramatic impact on the success of your 1995 corn program.

Hybrid decisions should be finalized by now. Hopefully, you have included some diversity in your hybrid lineup in terms of maturity and drought tolerance. A mix of maturities adds some hedge against the weather. Earlier hybrids will do a little better in seasons where the drought stress comes late in the year, after the corn has pollinated and set grain.

On the other hand, in seasons where early drought stress occurs followed by late season rains, full-season hybrids will

perform better. During the countdown, we should be thinking about hybrid placement. Our research has shown that high-yielding hybrids vary in how they react to drought and diseases.

Using hybrids that are stable and yield well under stress is a key on fields with shallow soils. Placing the disease-resistant hybrids on areas that are more prone to leaf diseases such as river bottoms and no-till into corn stalks will help to avoid

yield-reducing disease losses.

Another objective during the countdown period should be to make sure your corn planter is ready to go. Planter problems can also cause seed depth and or seed distribution problems. Both of these can cause increased stand variability that will reduce yields.

Variation in seed depth can cause variation in emergence, which causes some plants in the stand to lag behind and act litter-

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### Farm Calendar

Thursday, March 23

Maryland Nutrition Conference For Feed Manufacturers, Stouffer Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, Md., thru March 24.

Wednesday, March 29

Commercial Feed Law, PennAg Educational Seminar,

Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 6

Pest Management Field Day, S.E. Research and Extension Center, Landisville.

Friday, July 7

Weed Tour, Rockspring.