

**PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**



*President's Message*

**Curt Rakestraw**  
President, PMCGA

Every year during the last week of February, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) holds its annual convention. This year it was held in Nashville, Tenn. from Feb. 25-28.

The convention this year featured speakers who spoke on topics ranging from the 1995 Farm Bill to the future of computers in agriculture.

However, the thing I enjoy most about these conventions is being able to meet and socialize with other corn producers from all over the nation.

All too often we perceive our problems as being local. However, when you talk with farmers from other areas, you realize that they have many of the same problems that we do. Some of the problems that

nearly everyone talked about were the sharp increase in nitrogen prices, the possible ban of triazine herbicides, low grain prices, and high property taxes.

I also learned that Pennsylvania farmers are not the only farmers to feel the pressures of urban expansion. Many of the Midwestern cities have experienced rapid growth in the last decade and have brought all their problems associated with urban development to their agricultural neighbors (congested traffic, higher property taxes, etc.).

With corn growers facing so many common problems, it only seems natural that the NCGA continues to grow in membership and strength. Our

organization is trying to help shape a 1995 Farm Bill that is fair but does not take disproportionate cuts compared to the rest of the federal budget.

The organization is also working with industry to find a workable resolution regarding triazine problems. Finally, the NCGA is constantly working to find new uses for corn and corn byproducts so that demand keeps up with supply in order to enable the producer to sell his or her bushel of corn for a reasonable price.

In order for the NCGA to continue to work on our behalf,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to join the state and national corn growers, if you are not already a member. For \$75 you can become a 3-year member of both organizations and receive a free bag of seed corn. I don't know where you could find a better deal.

Now that spring is just around the corner, we at Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association would like to wish all of you a prosperous 1995 growing season.

Sincerely,  
Curt Rakestraw

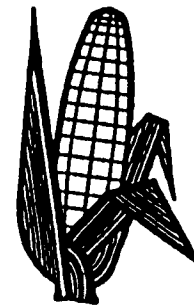
**For Crists, Hybrid**

(Continued from Page 5)

more than 35 years ago. In those years, he has experienced many unusual weather conditions. Last spring's statewide cold snap, after the corn emerged, was a concern of his sons, but because of his experience, David knew that as long as it didn't reach the growing point, the crop wouldn't be adversely affected. Overall, the weather provided some excellent growing conditions for the crop. Timely rains ensured good growing conditions

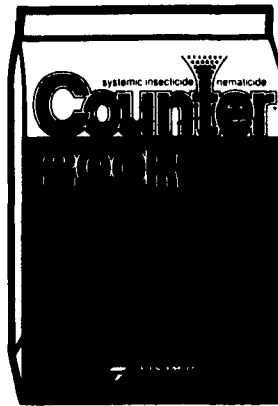
through most of the season, according to Crist.

Choosing the right hybrids, good management, and overall good weather provided the Crist family with three state champions.



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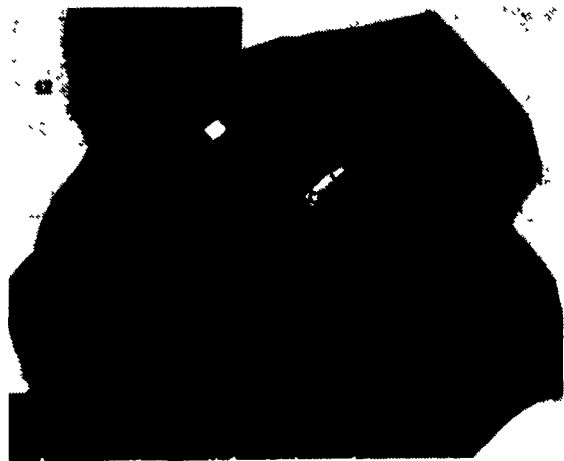
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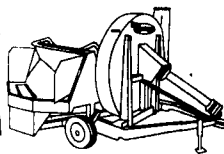


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