

Corn Harvest Said Ahead Of Schedule

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — To develop hybrid corn and soybeans for the mid-Atlantic states, the DeKalb Plant Genetics farm is ideally situated because of the unique plant environment of the local area. A field day at the farm was held Thursday, and Brent Godshalk, plant breeder and farm manager, said they wanted to show their customers the new hybrids in corn, soybeans and sorghum. In addition, new bt corn resistant to corn bore and hybrids resistant to herbicide were shown.

The station is one of 25 corn breeding stations and three soybean stations in the U.S. Godshalk has a large breeding program on the farm and also does a lot of work with silage corn.

Greg Roth, agronomist, Penn State, said the crops in Lancaster County look much better than many other areas but thought maybe the yields would not be quite as good as they looked.

In many other areas of the state Roth said the season has been a

roller coaster. Plant populations were reduced in some fields from seedling diseases. Later the rains came and caused the stalks to grow so rapidly that storms caused green snap problems.

Gray leaf spot then became a problem, but the dry weather caused that disease to diminish in intensity.

Now, rapid advancing crop

maturity has given given some drought stress on shallow soils. While the weather has been dry, nitrate problems have not surfaced because rains have not followed the drought.

Roth estimated that the corn harvest is two weeks ahead of schedule, and some silage has become dry faster than farmers expected.

With an early harvest comes the opportunity for fall tillage and the planting of cover crops.

"This has been a frustrating year for corn growers," Roth said. "But I think we will do reasonably well on a state-wide basis. In terms of yield, nationally USDA is reporting some rather good yields, but many corn farmers do not believe those yields will materialize."



Brent Godshalk, DeKalb research farm manager, explains the corn breeding process to one of the tour groups at the field day.

Correction

At last week's Elizabethtown Fair Sale of Champions, some facts were incorrectly reported. Brandon Ziegler, Lititz, sold his grand champion selling lamb to John Ebersole of Speedwell Con-





struction, Manheim. The supreme champion sheep was shown by Jennifer Zimmerman, Akron.

In the story of the current state FFA president Darla Herr's name was inadvertently interchanged with Tonya. We apologize for these errors.

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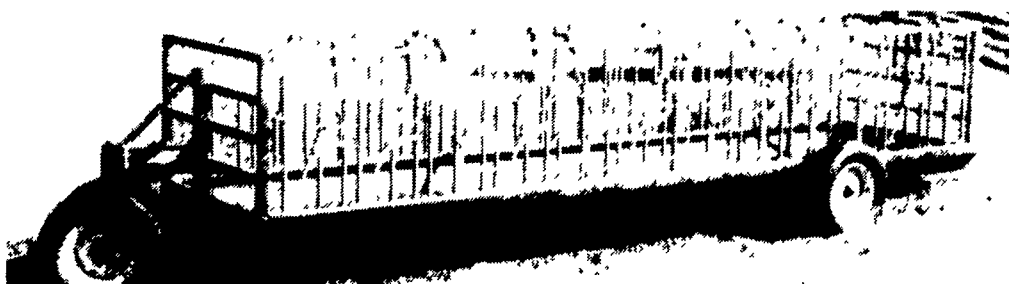
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