

Station Examines Ways To 'Fine-Tune' Corn Varieties

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Hundreds of visitors to the Pioneer Open House and Field Day mid-week here at the new research station were shown how

corn research is changing. Varieties are being selected to provide corn growers with a greater harvestable yield, reduced crop losses and lowered input costs, and increases in the value of grain and forages harvested.

Pughtown Agway Appointed Sales Representative

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Hoffman Seeds, Inc., has appointed Pughtown Agway, Spring City, as a sales representative for Chester County.

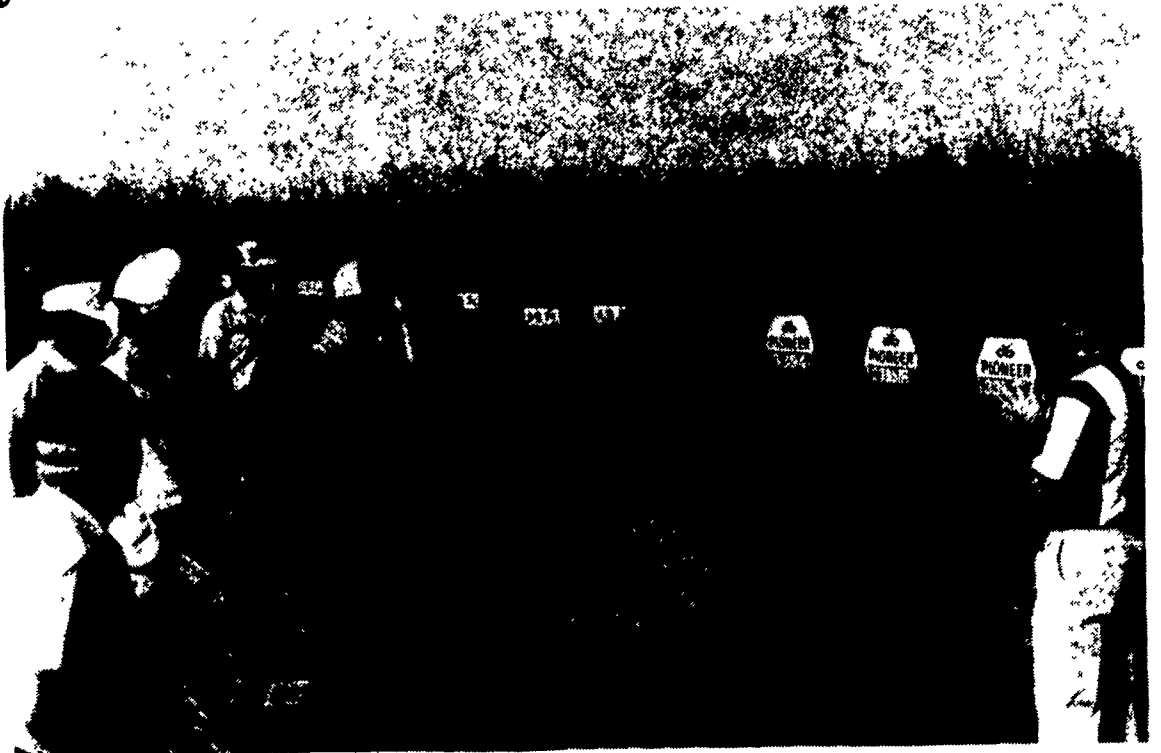
Pughtown Agway will handle the full line of Hoffman products, including Funk's G® Brand hybrid corn.

Pughtown Agway has been operating in the community for 80 years. The company carries a complete line of livestock and horse feeds, as well as pet foods and supplies, and recently opened a garden center.

Research under way at the station, on which construction was finished early this year, is examining how corn varieties are bred, what genetic technology is trying to do, how varieties are produced to fight diseases, and to grow corn to provide maximum yield and nutrition.

Dave Whitaker, research project manager of the station, said the site is one of four silage research stations and one of 26 corn research stations in the country that works with small plots to study new varieties. The New Holland site is the eastern research station, providing information to growers from Illinois to New York and south to North Carolina. This is the 11th growing season at the New Holland site.

A key area of research is the silage demonstration sites, especially narrow row technology. Studies in New York have shown that silage harvest has improved by 10 percent with no adverse effect on the quality of the silage, according to Whitaker. In a test plot, Pioneer 3525 was planted May 16 on one plot at a population of 30,000



Corn breeding demonstrations were provided by Lou Chapko, Pioneer plant breeder from Michigan, far right, at the Pioneer Field Day on Tuesday.

plants per acre on 30-inch rows. On the 15-inch rows, plant population reached 40,000 per acre.

The results "look really good," said Whitaker. Donald Specker, field sales agronomist for Pioneer in New York, said the narrow rows provided "quite a yield boost" and may prove useful for large-scale operations. Some dairies in Wyoming County, N.Y. are mak-

ing use of the narrow row technology with success.

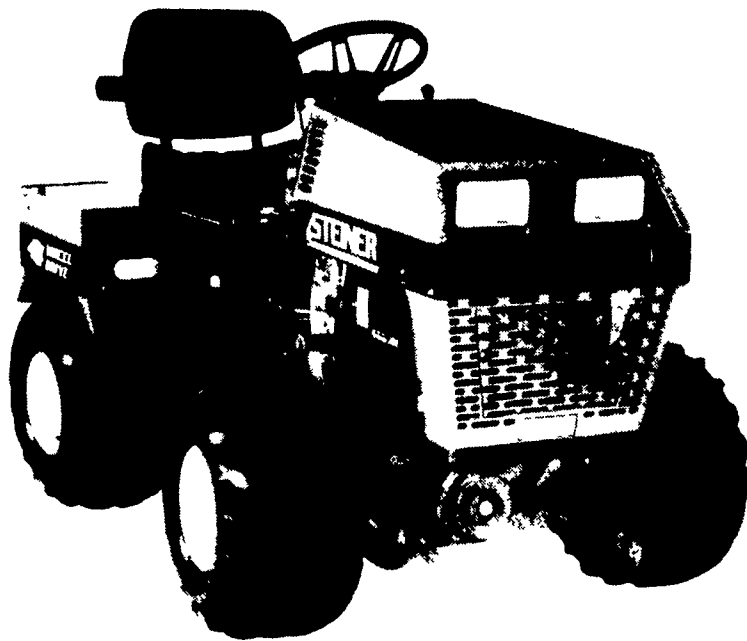
Special adjustments are necessary for the equipment at planting and harvest, according to narrow corn row experts.

In the future, growers may lose generic #2 yellow hybrids, said Joe Keaschall, Pioneer corn research director, southern corn belt and Italy. Keaschall said that hybrids will be produced for specific use. For example, he said corn is being developed that will make for a

"better hog feed." Corn research is geared to produce a hybrid that has improved energy value, better resistance to mold, lower phytate, and modified protein content.

Altogether, this "fine tuning" of plants, according to Keaschall, will benefit the corn grower.

The New Holland research building measures 10,000 square feet. Research plots encompass about 61 acres at the site, planted mostly to corn this year and irrigated.



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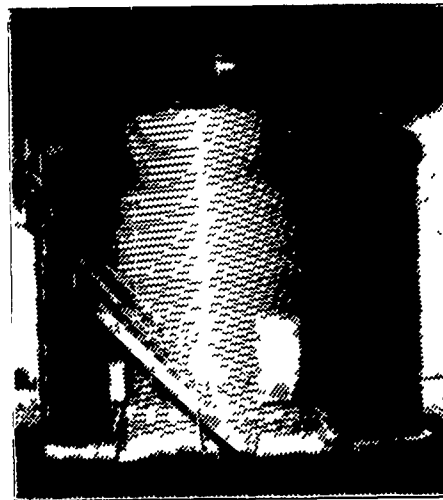
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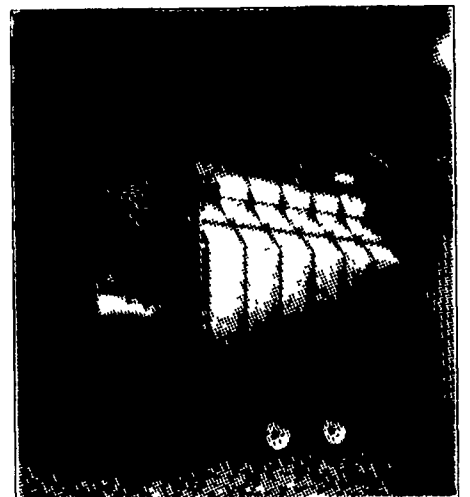
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