

★ **A LANCASTER FARMING EXCLUSIVE** ★

The Official Publication For The  
**PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN  
GROWERS ASSOC.**

A  
SPECIAL  
SECTION  
IN  
LANCASTER  
FARMING  
**FEB.  
10**

★  
ADVERTISERS  
PLAN NOW  
TO RESERVE  
YOUR SPACE

★  
PHONE  
717-626-1164  
OR  
717-394-3047

★  
DEADLINE  
FRIDAY  
FEB. 2

★



**CORN TALK**  
PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.  
Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 11, 1995

**For Snook, Standability's  
Most Important Factor**

**CAROLYN N. MOYER**  
Bradford Co. Correspondent

**JERSEY SHORE** (Lycoming Co.) — Some people say it's the rich river bottom soils that allow Ed Snook to take home the first-place ribbon in the Pennsylvania Corn Club's annual production contest. But according to the long-time corn grower and hog farmer, there are many factors that contribute to bumper corn crops.

"In the Five Acre Corn Club, I don't enter the same fields every year. I've had them in the Nippenose Valley on limestone ground and along the river. It's always pushed up to me that I have pig manure and river field, but we've had the Five Year Corn Club in seven or eight locations and we've won awards on all of them," he said.

In this year's contest, Snook placed first in the three-year average shelled grain class for the regular harvest size. His yield in 1992 was 191.8 bushels per acre. In 1993 he produced 201.6 bushels per acre and in 1994 he produced 194.1 bushels per acre for an average

(Turn to Page 2)




**CORN TALK**  
PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.  
Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 8, 1994

**Know Farm's 'Microenvironment,'  
Says Corn Grower President**

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**MONTOURSVILLE** (Lycoming Co.) — "You have to know the micro-environment of every place you farm in order to be able to make an intelligent choice in seed corn selection," said Curt Rakestraw, newly elected president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association, Inc.

During an interview early last month with *Lancaster Farming*, Rakestraw toured several of the 31 different farm sites he rents in the farm valley north of North White Deer Ridge. At one Penn State research test plot (one of several early to medium season plots statewide) on land leased from Joe Youman's Farm in Fairfield Township, Rakestraw spoke about some of the important factors growers should consider when picking a variety

Rakestraw farms about 1,100 acres of crops (700 acres in corn, 150 acres in small grain, and 150 acres in hay) with his brother Dave. Curt said that a farmer must know the qualities of the soil and the environment as a whole.

"We have some clay and rock," he said. "They say this is where the glaciers did their most damage. The edge of the glacier was right here. So we get a little bit of everything around here."

Rakestraw said a lot of the land he rents to grow corn has a lot of different varieties of soil, ranging from a Hagerstown silt loam to shaley loam to red clay. At one farm near the Lycoming Mall, he said "we were told there were 17 different soil types in three of the strips," he said. "And I believe it. When you plow it, it just changes every hundred feet or so."

(Turn to Page 2)



- **GROWERS INFORMATION**
- **FEATURE INTERVIEWS**
- **STATE & NATIONAL ASSOCIATES NEWS**
- **PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER**