



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 10, 1996

Corn A Year-Round Business At Wolf Farms

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STEWARTSTOWN (York Co.)—Piles of icy snow still linger along the edges of the rolling fields at Wolf Farms, west of Stewartstown.

But inside the farm's offices, Dan Wolf contemplates the neon-green commodity price charts scrolling across a satellite monitor and makes plans for planting corn.

Corn is king at this southern York County crop farm, where Dan Wolf and his brothers Dave and Steve crop 1,000 acres of the golden grain crop along with additional acreage in soybeans, wheat, timothy, and popcorn.

Wolf, a quiet, well-spoken farmer who studies his business intently, is one of the newest directors of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA).

Familiar to many corn producers is the PMCGA's work with monitoring yields across Pennsylvania and sponsoring

the statewide corn yield contest. PMCGA also works closely with Penn State in education and research work toward improved yields and cropping practices.

"The association helps to promote corn through education and advertising," Dan said, adding that the PMCGA's efforts are closely related to the programs and efforts of the National Corn Growers Association. "We also work toward enlightening and educating elected officials in the best interests of corn growers."

Promoting new products made from corn is another focus of the corn growers' association. Ethanol, an alternative fuel made from corn, continues to grow in volume of usage across the country. Tax benefits granted for ethanol development were a result of the ongoing efforts of the corn growers' associations, Wolf noted.

A number of other corn-based new products include an

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Two generations at Wolf Farms attend to business on the family grain operation. From left are brothers Dave and Dan Wolf and Dan's son, Justin. Absent from the photo because he was in the shop getting equipment ready was the third Wolf brother and partner, Steve.

Five-Acre Awards Presented At Conference

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.)—The Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club awards were presented at the Pennsylvania Crops Conference last week. Greg Roth, Penn State agronomy associate professor made the presentations. Roth said that it is difficult to grow excellent corn yields and noted the achievements of Ronks corn grower Jack Coleman, who had yields of 228.7 bushels per acre which was second to the national contest winner by 8/100 of a bushel. "It proves that some Pennsylvania soils can rival the best soils in the Corn Belt," Roth said.

There were 118 fields in the contest this year. The results are as follows:

In the three year average category, shelled grain class, regular harvest size, first place went to Herman Manbeck, Womelsdorf, for an average of 199.8 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3293 and 3394. Second place went to Elder Vogel, Rochester, for 193.6 bushels per acre using Funks 4260 and 4446A. Third went to Mathew Maximuck, Doylestown, with 191.8 bushels per acre using Dekalb 623.

In the three year average, three-acre-plus harvest size, first place went to Richard Kreider, Lebanon, for 185.7 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3394 and 3335. Second place

went to Daryl Alger, Palmyra, for 182.8 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3293 and 3394. Third place went to Carl T. Shaffer, Mifflinville, with a 182.1 per acre yield using Pioneer 3394 and 3525.

In the three year average, regular harvest size, first place went to Thomas Pepper, Canton, for a 200.3 bushel per acre average using Dekalb 646 and Pioneer 3293. Second place

went to Sandy Ridge Farms, Shippensburg, for a 182.2 bushel per acre average using Pioneer 3727 and 3527. Third place went to Eugene Graham, Cranberry, for a 175.8 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394.

In the shelled grain class, regular harvest size, first place went to Ed Snook, Jersey Shore, for a yield of 223.3 bushels per acre using Pioneer

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Farm Calendar

Tuesday, February 13

Lancaster County Crops Day, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Washington County Crops Day, Ramada Inn, Washington.

Central Jersey Field Crop meeting, Monmouth, N.J., County Extension Office, Freehold, 9 a.m.-noon.

Wednesday, February 14

York County Crops Day, Shrewsbury Fire Hall.

Fayette County Crops Day, Holiday Inn, Uniontown.

Thursday, February 15

Westmoreland County Crops Clinic, Mountainview Inn, Greensburg.

Vegango County Crops Day, Venango Extension Center, Franklin, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Central Jersey field crops meeting, Hunterdon Extension, Flemington, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Friday, February 16

Mercer County Crops Day, Mercer County Career Center, Mercer.

Franklin/Cumberland Crops and Soils meeting, Lemaster Community Center, Lemaster, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Somerset/Cambria Weed School, Somerset.

Thursday, February 22

Crop Decision Workshop, Conference Center, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Jan. 29.

Columbia County Ag Conference, Bloomsburg.

Thursday, February 29

Cambria County Crops Clinic, Cambria Extension Office, Ebensburg.

Agronomy Day, Calvert Grange Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 5

Schuylkill County Crops Clinic, Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, March 7

Fulton County Crops Day, McConnellsburg.

Wednesday, March 13

Three-County Agronomy School, Community Center, Berrysburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Lebanon County Weed Management Workshop, Lebanon Extension Office.

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy Associate Professor



NEW TECHNOLOGY EXPLOSION

Corn growers this year, perhaps more than in any recent years, are facing a literal explosion of new technology to consider as part of their corn production enterprise.

Weighing the costs and benefits of all of these innovations will be a challenge, but I am confident that many of these new products will find a place on Pennsylvania farms and have a considerable impact on our ability to produce high yielding crops.

An interesting innovation that has started showing up on Pennsylvania farms during the past two years are combine yield monitors. Most of the major equipment manufacturers have or will soon have a yield monitor on the market for their combines. In addition, several after market manufacturers have monitors available.

Most of the folks that I have talked with who have tried the yield monitors indicate that they are impressed with their accuracy. The monitors are not

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