

Between The Rows (Continued from Page 1)

foolproof, however, and take some management to calibrate and use effectively.

Some sources indicate that for field length measurements, the accuracy of yield estimates is often in the 1-2 percent range. Accuracy falls off somewhat in short length measurements because of variations in grain flow, uniformity of the crop, and speed of the combine, so we need to consider this in interpreting the yield estimates that are being produced every one to three seconds in the cab.

Nevertheless, most agronomists are viewing yield monitors as a powerful tool that will increase our ability to evaluate management decisions under field conditions. This will help many growers make decisions more on how the crop

yielded rather than how it looked in the field.

The two impressions of the crop are often quite different. Yield monitors will also influence how we do research and will likely allow us to make more powerful measurements which will increase our ability to detect yield differences on our variable soils in the Northeast.

Most yield monitors can be combined with a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver that supplies a location coordinate to the yield monitor. This is recorded along with the yield and crop moisture information on a computer data card that can be removed and read with a PC. Computer software is available to generate yield maps. These maps can then be used to identify low yielding or problem areas in the field.

Many agronomists are working to develop better ways to interpret these yield maps by relating yield to soil fertility, texture drainage, and organic matter variations in the field.

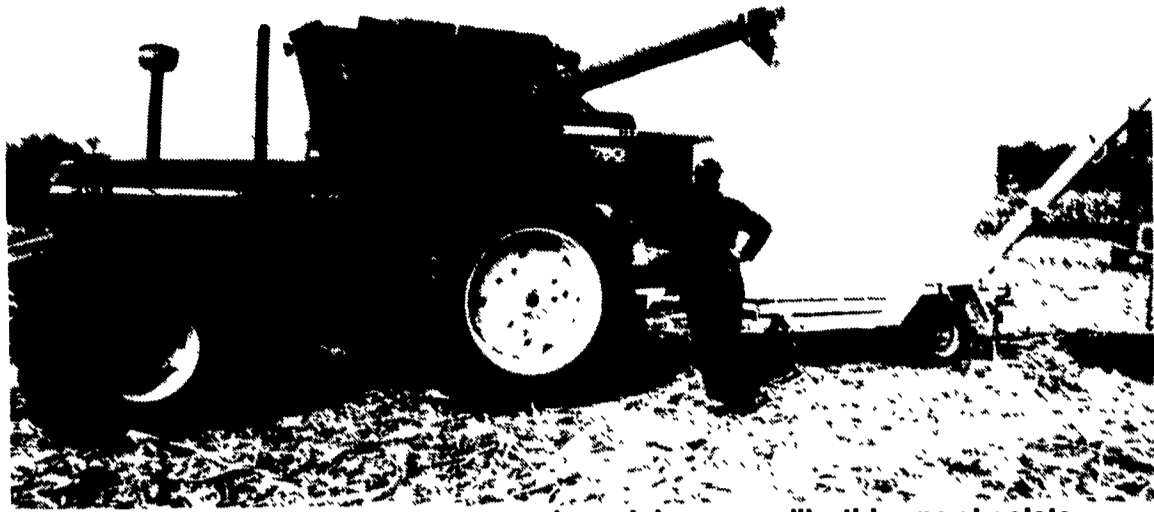
Another new technology that has exploded during the last year has been the World Wide Web (WWW). The World Wide Web is a worldwide computer network that links individuals, businesses, universities, and government agencies together. Individuals or institutions can create what is called *home pages*, which are basically one to several "pages" of

information describing what they are all about. Each page often contains many links that you can click on and go to another page for more information.

What does all this have to do with corn growers? It provides us access to a tremendous amount of information that was not at our fingertips readily before. In a few minutes at my PC at home I can review weather forecasts, read agronomic newsletter articles from several universities, download some pictures for presentations, look at hybrid testing information from other universities, and check commodity prices.

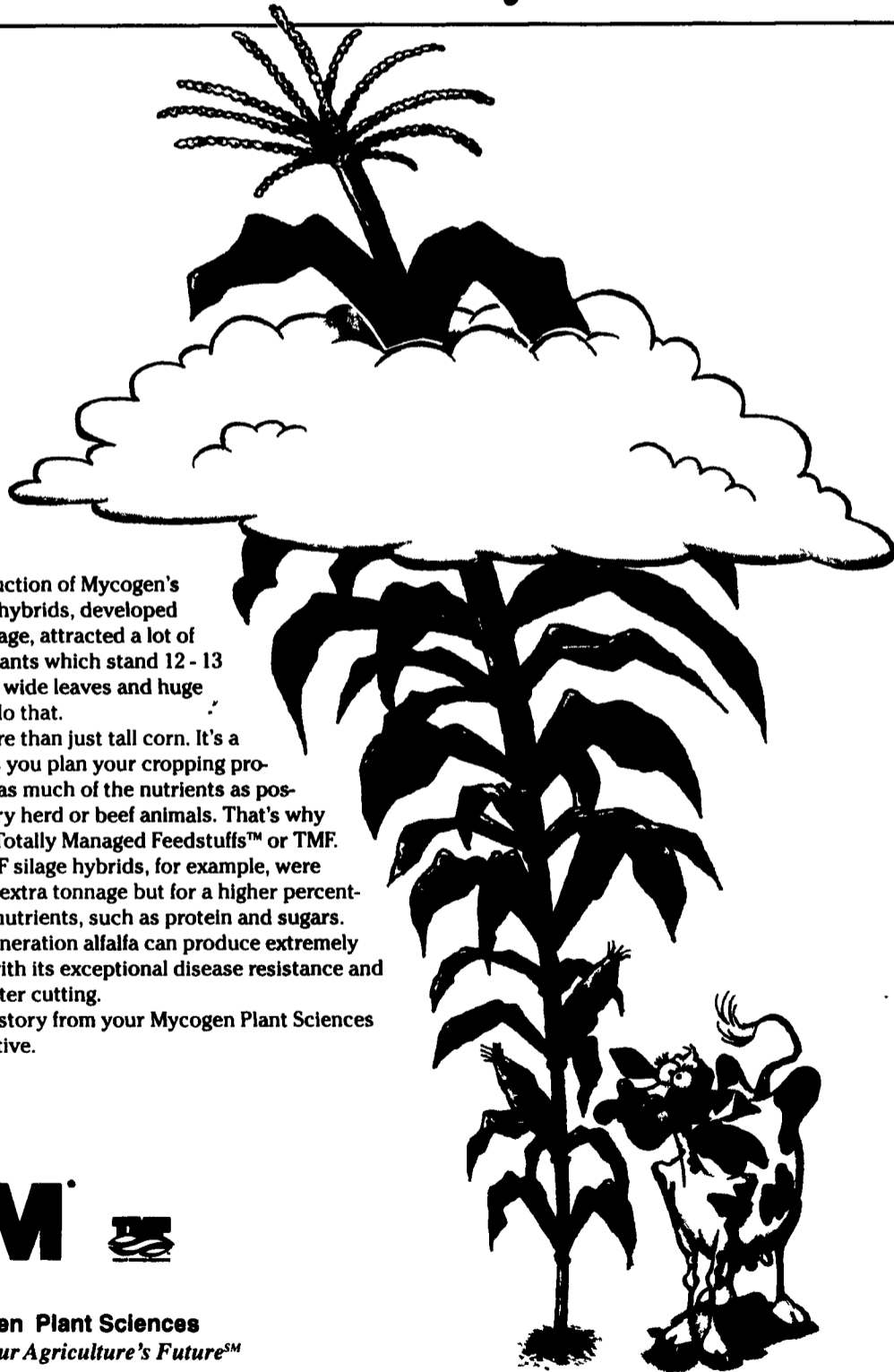
In the past few months there has been a real proliferation of

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Yield monitors in combines may make weigh wagons like this one obsolete in the future.

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