

Five-Acre Awards Presented At Conference

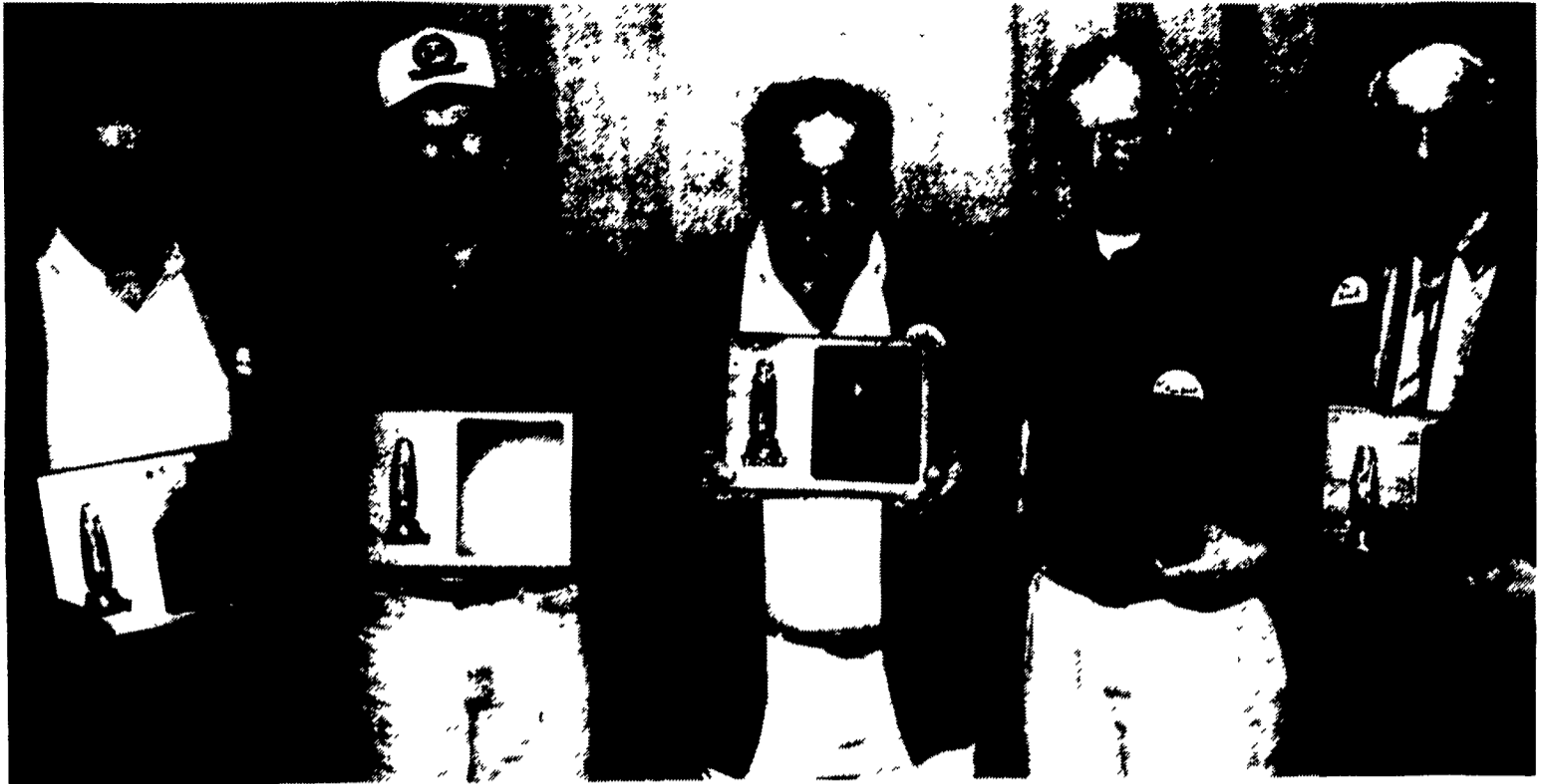
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3217. Second place went to Floyd Kurtz, Fleetwood, for 199 bushels per acre using Pioneer 3335. Third place went to Lloyd George, Catawissa, for a 198.6 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394.

In the shelled grain class, three-acre-plus harvest size, first place went to Jack Coleman, Ronks, for a 228.7 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3335. Second place went to Ernest Mast, Morgantown, for a 205.1 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394. Third place went to Clarence Keener, Manheim, for a 202.4 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394.

In the ear corn class, hand harvest, first place went to David Schantz, Alburtis, for a 195.1 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394. Second place went to Bill Keeney, Wyalusing, for a 174.1 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3527. Third place went to D. Mark Crist, Jersey Shore, for a 174 bushel per acre yield using Doebler's 66XP.

In the ear corn class, machine harvest, first place was awarded to John T. Crist, Jersey Shore, for a 169.6 bushel per acre yield using Doebler's 75X. Second



At the crops conference, the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club awards were presented. First place awards went to, from left, Jack Coleman, Ronks, in the shelled grain class three-acre-plus harvest size; John Crist, Jersey Shore, for the shelled grain class machine harvest size;

Richard Kreider, Lebanon, for the shelled grain, three-year average, three-acre-plus harvest size; Herman Manbeck, shelled grain class, three-year average, regular harvest size; and Ed Snook, shelled grain class, regular harvest size.

place went to Myron Bonzo, Rochester, for a 159.5 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3525. Third place went to Gary Fehnel, Easton, for a 147.6 bushel per acre yield using Pioneer 3394.



Second and third place winners of the Five-Acre Corn Club contest, from left, D. Mark Crist, Jersey Shore, third place, ear corn class, hand harvest size; Bill Keeney, Wyalusing, second place, ear corn class, hand harvest; Daryl Alger, Palmyra, second place, three-year-average award, shelled grain class, three-acre-plus harvest size; Clarence Keener, Manheim, third place, shelled grain class, three-acre-plus harvest size; and Lloyd George, Catawissa, third place, shelled grain class, regular harvest size.



Farmers Restless Over Budget Impasse

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers want President Clinton and congressional leaders to resolve the ongoing budget impasse as soon as possible.

A new farm commodity title remains tied up in the controversy, and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) favors action to enact new federal farm policy if the dispute cannot be resolved quickly.

"Farmers need a new farm program," said NCGA President Bill Northey. "The easier legislative vehicle to accomplish this now is through the budget reconciliation process. If the two sides cannot come to an agreement very soon, new farm policy must be enacted."

The Iowa farmer sent a letter to the White House and Capitol Hill that stressed the need to complete a seven-year federal budget with market transition payments for farmers coupled with a loan program to permanently replace the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman threatened to revert to the old law if the opportunity to enact new farm legislation continues to slip away. Glickman called the 1949 Act "...dysfunctional for the modern world."

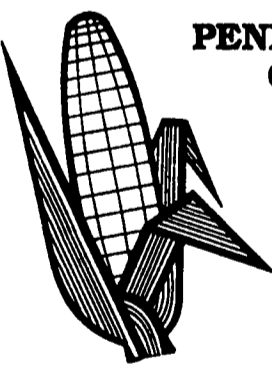
The NCGA letter described the old law as expensive, disruptive, and would prompt farmers to grow crops based on

government payments rather than on the market and beneficial farming practices. Northey, the Iowa farmer who leads the NCGA, called the market transition program already approved by Congress "the best alternative" to provide farmers with necessary planting flexibility while reducing federal budget exposure.


"This approach allows farmers to make production decisions that will offer the best opportunity for profitability," he said. "The president and congressional Democrats and Republicans can improve it by eliminating caps on loan rates. This action would provide the necessary farm income safety net when commodity prices are unusually low."

Early last month, the NCGA became the first farm group to oppose an extension of current farm law. "A repeat of last year's corn program is not acceptable," Northey said. "It limits the opportunity for producers to decide what crop they can actually grow. Federal farm programs must provide the flexibility to allow farmers to respond to market signals and rotate crops for environmental benefits."

Twenty-four state corn grower organizations affiliate with the NCGA. Its more than 29,500 members farm in 47 different states.



PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



President's Message

Curt Rakestraw
President, PMCGA

The 1995 crop year was a warm and dry one for many of the farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Unfortunately, 1996 hasn't started out much better. In a mere three weeks, we have seen a record blizzard and severe flooding. Let's hope spring is just around the corner!

Last year was also a poor growing season for many areas of the Midwest. Large areas of the Corn Belt saw a cold, wet spring, followed by a dry summer and topped off by an early freeze as far south as Missouri.

With all the bad weather the corn crop experienced, the national average corn yield was still a respectable 113.7 bushels per acre.

Granted that this 113.7-

bushel crop was approximately 15 percent below trend line yields, but it was still well above the 1980, 1983, and 1988 yields (each of which were approximately 30 percent below trend line).

If the 1995 corn crop was considerably better than a number of previous short crops, why is the price pushing \$4 a bushel? This is because the market is driven by supply and demand, unlike the previous years where it was only driven by supply.

According to the USDA January corn supply and demand balance sheet, corn used for domestic feed is the only area that corn use drops appreciably, from 5.5 billion bushels to 4.6 billion bushels. Exports only drop from 2.178

billion bushels to 2.1 billion bushels, and corn used for industrial purposes drop only 3 million bushel from 1.693 to 1.69 billion bushels.

Ending stocks drop to 530 million bushels, the lowest ever in present of usage. 1995 may well be the first time since 1974 that both supply and demand drove up the price of corn. With demand strong and carryover low, 1996 should be a good year for corn farmers.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association, I would like to wish all of you a happy and prosperous 1996.

Curt Rakestraw

