CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 16, 1996

Grower Talks About 'The Sun, Rain, And The Increase'

CAROLYN MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent

CANTON (Bradford Co.) — "I only plant the corn. The good Lord gives the sun and the rain and the increase," said a humble Tom Pepper Sr. as he talked about his successful corn crops and his first-place finish in the five-acre corn club's three-year-average corn class last year.

He took the prize with an average production of 200.3 bushels per acre. Although this is the first time he has been at the top of his class, Pepper is no stranger to the winner's circle.

Pepper began entering his production data with the SULBRA Crop Management Association in 1990. He started getting awards in 1991. In 1993 he placed second in the hand-harvest class for ear corn with 197.8 bushels per acre. In 1994 he took second place honors in the three-year average corn class with 185.7 bushels per acre.

"We have increased gradually every year," noted Pepper. "I think the SULBRA Crop Association has certainly been a big help to us."

(Turn to Page 3)

Tom Pepper, right, and grandson Nate Wooster pose near their full corn crib. Pepper also grows corn for silage and high moisture corn which are fed to his barn full of dairy cows.

Farmers Prove There Are Lots Of Variables In Corn Growing

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent

McCONNELLSTOWN (Huntingdon Co.) — Elwood Kyper farms more variables than a lot of farmers.

Every farmer watches the sky for weather changes, tests soil in the palm of his hand for moisture, and nibbles at kernels for crop maturity.

But the land Kyper owns in Woodcock Valley near McConnellstown, and rents along the Juniata River, contains Class II and III soils.

From shaley Berks on the hills to Philo and Barbar floodplain with corn yields comparable to Hagerstown soils, Kyper produces a good living and satisfying lifestyle from this land. It just takes timeliness, patience, and a wider variety of farming methods.

Kyper farms more than 900 acres with relative Keith Strait and in cooperation with Mike Lang and Russell Kyper. They plant 400 acres of corn. In addition, Russell plants 70 acres of corn from his own 150 tillable, and Mike plants 50 acres of corn from his 100 tillable acres.

Because of such variable soil qualities, they spread the risk of farming over 150 acres of wheat, 100 acres of timothy, 95 acres of alfalfa, 55 acres of green beans, 50 acres of soybeans, 35 acres of sorghum, 23 acres of tomatoes, and 15 acres of oats.

(Turn to Page 4)

CORN TALK
Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 16
Wyoming County Crops Meeting, Pa. Dept. of Ag, Tunkhannock, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26
Basic Soil Fertility Workshop, Ag Administration Building, University Park, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Monday, July 8
Weed Tour, Southeast Research and Extension Center, Landisville.

Tuesday, July 9
Weed Tour, Penn State Agronomy Farm, Rockspring.

Tuesday, July 23
Crop Diagnostic Clinic, Penn State Agronomy Farm, Rockspring, also July 25.

Thursday, July 25
Crop Diagnostic Clinic, Penn State Agronomy Farm, Rockspring.

Tuesday, August 13
Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 15.

Wednesday, August 14
Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 15.

Thursday, August 15
Ag Progress Days, Rockspring.

Wednesday, September 18
Grain Production Field Day, Longacre Potato Farm, Tionesta.

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy
Associate Professor

PLANNING FOR THE 1996 CORN CROP

It's hard to believe, but another corn planting season is just around the corner.

The new season should be an challenging one. High corn prices, more corn acres, and some high input costs will test our management skills again this year.

This winter I visited with lots of corn growers at winter meetings around the state. I came away with the message that our business is still as interesting as it always has been.

Here are some of the issues I heard about that we need to consider in 1996.

One issue was that, across the board, we all still need to think more about the basics of corn production. For example, in many areas, just avoiding late planting is a continuing challenge. Planning ahead by managing our equipment and labor resources to finish on time will go a long way to

(Turn to Page 30)