A42-Lancaster Ferming, Saturday, August 10, 1998

## Crop Day Draws More Than 100

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) -"With the amount of moisture we've seen this year, you could plant corn in 10-inch rows and get good yield response," said John Bray, sales representative for Reading Bone Agway in Millardsville, Lebanon County.

Bray, along with many other Agway representatives, spoke Wednesday during a tour of the Agway Research Center at the Milton Hershey School Farm.

While hot, dry weather kept many on the fields cutting hay, of the 200 who registered by phone, more than 100 producers and agriindustry representatives attended the annual crop day at Hershey School.

Along with Bray, John Moser, also a sales representative for Reading Bone Agway in Millardsville, spoke about some of the conventional corn compared to narrow row corn trials. Comparisons between minimum till versus notill were also made.

On the conventional plots, corn was planted April 24 in 30- inch rows at 27,000 plants per acre into soybean stubble. In comparison, the same day, on 15-inch rows, corn was planted at 29,000 per acre, with good standability because of good growing conditions. Both crops have corn stalks measuring 10 feet tall.

Regarding narrow row corn uses, according to Moser, "I can see using it for silage — there's a little bit of advantage," he said. "But I don't see it for grain corn." The narrow-row corn had about 140 units of nitrogen applied on soil that is "terrific," according to Bray. Response to soil additives such as sulphur has also been good on the Hershey School soils that test high for phosphorous and potassium.

Overall growing conditions for most crops has been good in the fields compared to last year, when

fields were "bone dry, like everywhere else," Moser said.

The no-till narrow corn was Agway 657, a 109-day variety.

Soybean trials were also a major portion of the crop day tours. Agway APK 403 beans were planted May 19, drilled into 14-inch rows. Early beans were planted at 200,000 plants per acre.

"Beans need their space," said Matt Grajewski, territorial seed manager for Agway southeast region. Grajewski said earlier variety beans don't do well under higher populations at 7-inch rows.

In variety comparison trials, APK 401 had better standability than 403. In the coming years, new varieties APK 392 and 395 will replace the old. In addition, a bush variety of bean, APK 364 with good standability, continues to be Agway's best-selling bean, according to Grajewski.

Also, growers examined APK 386 STS varieties, in addition to the short-season APK 364 and long-season APK 399 Roundup Ready varieties. Grajewski cautioned growers to know where their beans are, because Roundup spread on beans not Roundup Ready is deadly.

Growers also looked to "the queen of forages" in Agway's Excaliber II variety alfalfa. In addition, seed depth, weed screen, and insecticide and inoculant use by a variety of manufacturers in addition to a global positioning system (GPS) demonstration, forage varieties and preservatives, and a Messicks Farm Equipment Demo rounded out the day.

"The focus of the day is on applied technology - what the research stations can do with the material in commercial plots to help customers with the selection process," said Roy Aber, sales manager for Agway Agricultural Products. This is the third year for the crop day.

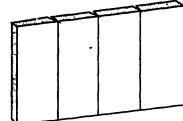


John Moser, background, left and John Bray, standing next to him in the white shirt, spoke to more than 100 producers and agri-industry representatives about narrow row corn at the Agway Crop Day on Wednesday.



Ag material manufacturer representatives in tents at the Reading Bone Agway Crop Day at Hershey School on Wednesday.

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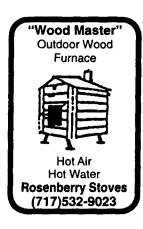
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