

New Corn, Soybean Varieties Shown At Field Day

MT. JOY (Lancaster Co.) — A large crowd gathered at the corn and soybean research plots of Hoffman Seeds, Inc., along Route 772 between Mt. Joy and Manheim Thursday. Of special interest to the visitors was the bt corn that kills corn bores when they eat the leaves and stalks. With 40,000 acres of this new type corn in the fields this year, farmers have also seen better standability and higher yields. George Ewing, Jr., Hoffman, CEO, said it is incredible how effective this bt corn is. "You can walk the fields and not see a corn bore," Ewing said.

"And this is only the tip of the iceberg. What we will see in the next five or six years will put the present corn and soybeans to shame.

Another test plot showed the first stages of a new high oil corn that will result in kernels with 12 to 15 percent protein where normal corn has 6 percent protein. The male pollinators were mixed in the

plot among sterile female plants to develop the line.

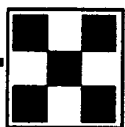
Barry Hoke, key accounts manager, said that later the bt gene will be added to the line and within several years this new corn will start to be available. In poultry, dairy, or swine, the new high protein corn will save input costs. Documented research shows that in corn silage this new corn will return \$248 more per acre. This corn also has softer kernel covers, better digestibility, little pass through in cattle, and no need for roller mills.

"Really it is the first new technology in 75 years in our industry," Ewing said. "The last new technology was hybrid corn. And that really started at the turn of the century. But it was 1935 before it was accepted and in the 40's before it was used everywhere. Now in 1996 it is fun to be in on the start of something new again.

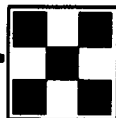
A catered lunch was served to everyone who attended.



At the Hoffman field day are from left, Barry Hoke, key accounts manager; Tracy Neff, manager, product testing and evaluation; George Ewing, Jr., CEO, and Steve Smith, products manager.



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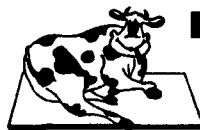
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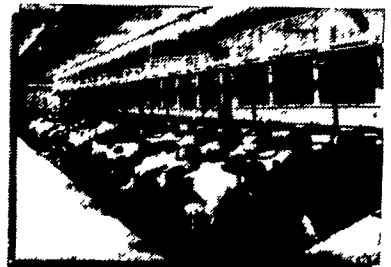
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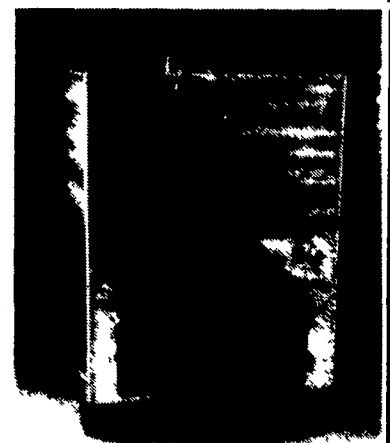
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