



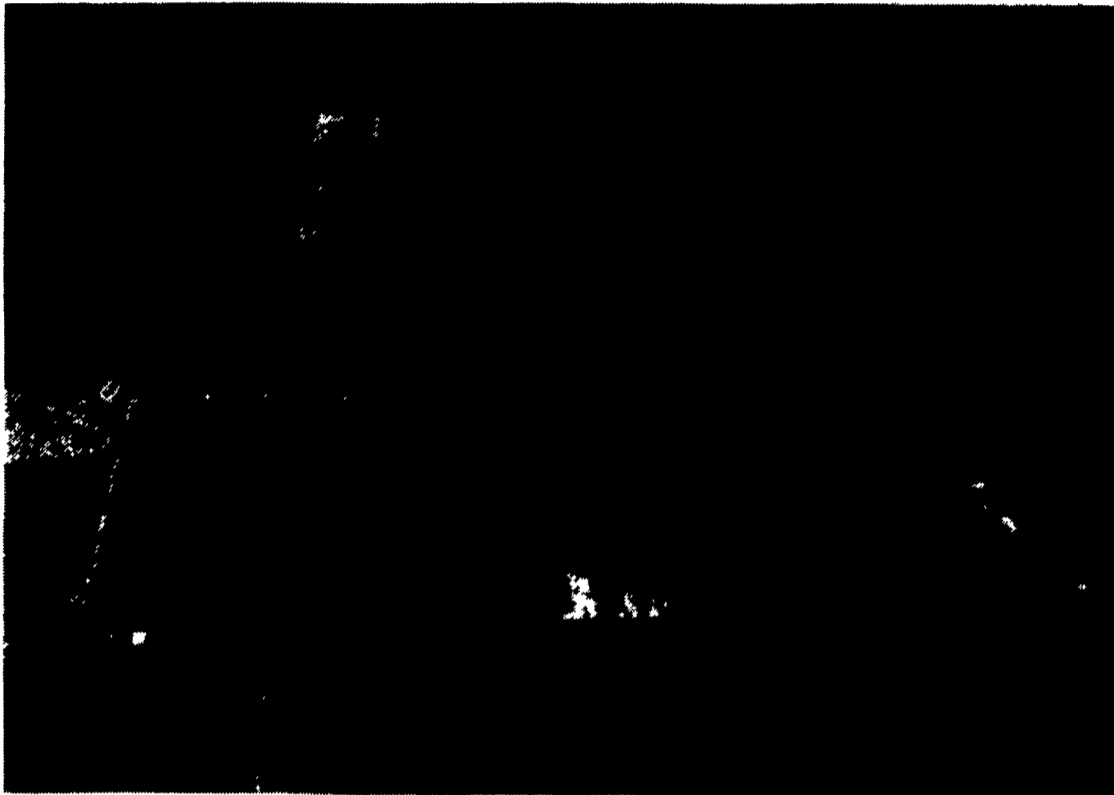
CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 25, 1997—Page 1

More Than 300 Attend Crop Field Day At Long Acres

Soil Penetration, Loosening Help Improve Corn Standability



Conservation is evident on the Long Acres Potato Farm, Tionesta. A field day at the farm showed visitors the importance of tillage and how to eliminate compaction.

Commodity Analyst To Speak At Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — David Kruse, a nationally recognized commodity adviser with CommStock Investments, Inc. of Spencer, Iowa will serve as keynote speaker for the upcoming Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grantville on Feb. 7.

Kruse produces the CommStock Report, an ag commentary and market analysis available on several radio stations and by subscription on DTN, Farm Dayta, and the Internet. The Commstock Report has

been acclaimed the Mark Twain of Commodities by R.H.B. Financial Services for its writing style, said to be the best in the industry.

The CommStock report was one of the two fastest growing advisory services on DTN this past year. The CommStock report is noted for its colorful commentary and a perspective from rural America, advocating farm community interests and traditional farm values.

David Kruse has been actively engaged in farming since 1973. He has an agronomy degree from South Dakota State University and lives on

and manages a 600-acre corn/soybean farm in northwest

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ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
TIONESTA (Clarion Co.)—
Despite rainy conditions, methods to improve water absorption and effective use of starter fertilizer allowed a corn producer here to garner 145 bushels/acre of shelled corn this season.

The partners that comprise Long Acres Potato Farm know what the challenges of the past growing season brought: a cool, wet spring followed by a wet summer followed by . . . well, despite all that, the corn went in on time and did well.

About 350 corn growers and agri-industry representatives, including a large contingent of Penn State extension staff, were on hand to show the results of Bt corn, corn variety trials, and use of starter and sidedress fertilizers at the Crop Field Day held at Long Acres in September last year.

According to one of the partners, Clarence Beck, who helped stage the field day, the number one message that growers took home from them from the event was to learn about the importance of rotations for soil health and insect and weed control.

Beck said that the partnership uses a four-year rotation: corn, followed by soybeans or oats, followed by potatoes or wheat, then back to corn. The important thing to remember, noted Beck, is that the farm doesn't follow corn with corn.

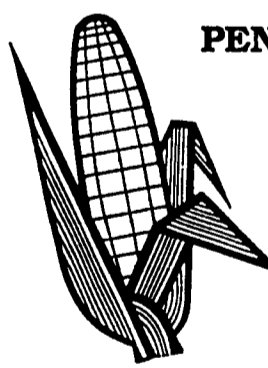
"We also have learned to subsoil the ground to 18 inches deep and keep the soil real loose to benefit the root system," said Beck. Even in a dry year, he said, subsoiling is "very beneficial" for a healthier, more productive crop.

The wet weather this year was a real challenge. It "held us back in terms of subsoiling and tillage," Beck said.

What farmers are discovering, he indicated, was that the use of a starter fertilizer in the row with a lot of urea can have detrimental effects on a crop. The fertilizer can burn the root system.

What Long Acres has done is make use of a monammoniated phosphorous (MAP) and sulphur-magnesium potash added to it with relatively low nitrogen amounts (about 200 pounds of starter fertilizer per acre) at application. The corn was planted this past season


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PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy
Associate Professor



THE ART OF SELECTING CORN HYBRIDS

Since most seed corn is purchased during the winter, let's take a few minutes and review some of the issues that should concern us in making hybrid decisions for 1997.

Selecting the right group of corn hybrids to buy is not an easy task and its not getting any easier. New technologies and ever-changing hybrids make the hybrid selection process mind-boggling at times.

Even though it can get confusing and complicated at times, it is a process we should work at since it can make a significant difference in the bottom line at the end of the year. It

is easy, for example, to end up with a hybrid that may yield 20 bushels less than an alternative — and that's something we want to avoid.

One issue is what you should use as a basis for your decisions. We hope you use all the performance data you can get your hands on.

The Penn State Commercial Hybrid Corn Performance reports are a good place to start. The advantages of this data are that you can review performance over two years and at least five sites a year. You can also compare a number of entries from different seed companies grown under the same conditions.

These tests are also useful to compare the maturity of vari-

ous hybrids by comparing the grain moisture at harvest. Other independent hybrid trial data can also be used in conjunction with the university data to evaluate hybrid performance.

Seed company information is essential to consider because it often sheds light on specific characteristics that are important in the placement of and management of different hybrids such as disease resistance, grain quality, standability, etc.

Input from your seed sales rep can help to fit specific hybrids to your operation. The best seed reps can give you a pretty good idea of what to expect from a hybrid.

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CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

Monday, January 27
Adams, Franklin, Crop Management, John Rowehl, York, Cumberland, Perry (717) 840-7408, thru Jan. 31.

Tuesday, January 28
Southeast Crop Management, Tim Fritz, (610) 489-4315, thru Jan. 31.

Wednesday, January 29
Columbia Crop Management, Dave Hartman, (717) 784-6660.

Monroe Crop Management, Donna Foulk, (717) 421-6430, 7-9 p.m.

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