

Conference Plans Nearly Complete

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — 1997 Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference Plans are nearly complete for the 1997 Corn and Soybean Conference to be held on Feb. 7 at the Holiday Inn at Grantville, just north of Harrisburg on I-81.

This year's program promises to be a good one and will feature Dave Kruse, an enter-

taining ag broadcaster from Iowa who will provide us with his forecast for the 1997 corn and soybean markets.

Also on the program will be Yvonne Wentz, an Iowa Soybean grower and representative from the United Soybean board. Yvonne will discuss current efforts to create and market new uses for U.S. soybeans.

The program will also feature a recap of the growing season for corn and soybeans by agronomist Mike Brubaker, president of Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service.

Dr. Jim Bierlien from Penn State's Ag Economics and Rural Sociology Department will take a look at the future in another presentation and ask

producers if they are ready for managing farms in the 21st century. Other topics on the program include the performance of Bt corn hybrids this year and a report on the activities of the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

The conference will also include ag industry exhibitors, 5-Acre Corn Club and Soybean

Yield Contest awards, and reports from the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers and the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

Certified crop adviser credits will be available from the conference in pest management and crop production. Pesticide applicator credits will be available as well.

Complete the registration form located in this issue now so you can reserve your space at this year's conference.

1997 PENNSYLVANIA CROPS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please return this registration form by February 1.

Mail to:
PMCGA
P.O. Box 304
State College, PA 16804

Pre-registration (lunch included): \$15

Memberships

- Pa. Master Corn Growers Association: \$30
 Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association: \$30

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to PMCGA.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

1997 PENNSYLVANIA CROPS CONFERENCE

February 7, 1997

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holiday Inn
Grantville, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

- 9:00 Registration, coffee, and visit exhibits
10:00 Keynote Address—A Provocative Look to the Future for Corn and Soybean Producers
David Cruse, president, Comstock Investments, Spencer, Iowa
10:45 1996 Corn and Soybean Year in Review
Michael W. Brubaker, president, Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service
11:05 Creating, Producing, and Marketing New Uses for U.S. Soybeans
Yvonne Wentz, soybean grower and USB representative, Waverly, Iowa
11:25 What's Happening with the Feed Grains Checkoff in Maryland
Lawrence Meeks, president, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
11:45 Discussion

Noon Lunch

- Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association Update
- 5-Acre Corn Club Awards
- Pennsylvania Soybean Board Update
- Soybean Yield Contest Awards

1:30 Opportunities for Transgenic Bt Corn in Maryland

Galen Dively, entomologist, University of Maryland

2:00 Are You Ready for the 21st Century?

James Beierlein, professor of agricultural economics, Penn State


2:30 Herbicide Resistant Soybeans and Corn: A View from the Field

Producer panel
Clarence Keener, Lancaster County
Daryl Alger, Lebanon County
Chris Kimmel, Armstrong County

3:00 Adjourn

DIRECTIONS


Take Interstate 81 to Exit 28, just north of Harrisburg.



**PENNSYLVANIA
MASTER
CORN GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy
Associate Professor



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Seed industry performance data from strip trials is also useful — especially to compare among entries within the same company. Comparisons between competitive hybrids from different companies are often limited in these trials, however.

For most growers, seed company information and the Penn State data may suffice, but for those whose livelihood depends on corn yields and want to go one step further, on-farm strip testing and yield records should be considered as well. Both of these techniques can be used to fine tune hybrid selection to individual operations. They are also being used effectively to evaluate new technologies such as the Bt corns, high-oil corns, and other added-value corns.

There is a danger in relying too heavily on one or two test results, but when strip test data is combined with yield records, seed company data and replicated data you can begin to

make sense of hybrid performance with some confidence.

One challenge in this area is whether combine yield monitors can provide accurate enough information for strip testing. Our initial tests seem to indicate they may, but they have to be calibrated well and operated carefully.

Other new challenges are approaching in the hybrid testing arena. No longer will it be quite as easy (if it ever was easy) to select the best set of hybrids. Now, new traits such as herbicide or insect resistance will need to be considered along with yield.

In the short run we would limit our choice of hybrids often if we choose to use only the resistant hybrids. This can limit the diversity of our hybrid lineup and increase our risk, so we need to consider this.

We may also not be able to get the hybrid that is best adapted to our operation in the resistant version. In the long term, most hybrids will have these new traits and we'll have

more to select from, so this issue won't be a problem.

Another challenge is assessing some of the new added-value hybrids, especially when yield potential is sacrificed for the new traits. For many agronomists, it's difficult to recommend lower yielding hybrids, but there may be situations where it is justified if animal performance or reduced feed costs can offset slightly lower yields. The challenge in this situation is that often the benefit of the added value hybrid is dependent on the ration or the animals that are consuming the feed.

To make good economic decisions on these situations, you'll need good numbers on both the yield, feed costs, and the animal performance. Because of this we'll be seeing more interaction between the seed industry and the feed industry since it will be essential to understand the animal side to maximize the benefit from the new genetics.

Hybrid selection is not getting any easier. In the future there will be more need for us to push the pencil and get good yield and animal response numbers if we are going to make the best decisions regarding some of the new corn genetics available out there. For those growers and seed companies that spend the effort, the results will likely be worthwhile.

Commodity Analyst To Speak At Conference

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Iowa. He also has extensive experience with cattle and hog marketing.

Kruse has published articles in *Successful Farming* and *Iowa Farmer Today* and has served as keynote speaker on several other major conferences across the country.

Kruse's presentation, "A Provocative Look To the Future For Corn and Soybean Producers," will address the future of the corn market in the U.S., the practical impact of biotech on corn and soybean producers, and how the industrialization of the grain industry will affect crop producers.

Given the volatility of the grain markets and the explosion of new technologies available to Pennsylvania grain producers, Kruse's presentation should be timely and

interesting.

Kruse's presentation is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference at the Holiday Inn in Grantville on Feb. 7. See registration information located elsewhere in this issue of *Corn Talk*.



David Kruse