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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.

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 a 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 fer-
tilizers at the Crop Field Day
held at Long Acres in Septem-
ber last year.

According to one of the par-
tners, Clarence Beck, who
helped stage the field day, the
number one man-

Beck said that the partner-
ship 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 sys-
tem," said Beck. Even in a dry
year, he said, subsoiling is
"very beneficial" for a health-
ier, 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 discover-
ing, 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 monommoniated
phosphorous (MAP) and
sulphur-magnesium.

Commodity Analyst To Speak At Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.)



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 12, 1996

Burcucumber Busts Out In Pa. Corn Fields

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) —
Burcucumber — also known as "wild
pickle" — has been "exploding" in many
Pennsylvania corn fields, said a Penn
State weed specialist.

According to Dr. Bill Curran, Penn
State associate professor of weed science,
the cumbersome weed can cause heavy
damage in corn and soybean fields with
potential significant loss of yields.
To make matters worse, the weed is
extremely difficult and can be expensive
to control. However, the alternatives of
using no control or not changing control
strategies could prove catastrophic for
corn growers.

Curran said the vine-type weed, which
looks just like a cucumber plant with
broad, five-sided leaves, can branch out
through fields of corn and soybeans for
great distances. The plants can choke off
corn stalks and envelope soybean stands
quickly if left untreated.

Worse, the plant produces clusters of
seed with 16-20 seeds per cluster. "There

overwinter. In addition, the clusters can
attach themselves readily to clothing or
fur cover and can be spread easily by
rodents or man.

"This is a bottom-ground, wet and
heavy soil type of vine weed," said Cur-
ran. But in a growing season that was as
continuously wet as this past one, any
type of field could fall victim. Growers
realized, according to the weed specialist,
that "no herbicides provided residual con-
trol good enough to control the weed all
season long."

The problem is made worse by the fact
that the vines and seeds pose real hazards
at harvest.

"Burcucumber clogs up combines,
wraps up in the reels, and clogs up silage
choppers," said Curran.

The seed, when it germinates, is very
competitive, can reduce yield on crops
significantly, and spreads quickly.

Some fields can get so infested with the
weed that they simply cannot be chopped
for silage or combined.

For corn fields that are past treatment
and to be used for silage, there is hope:
Curran shows



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