

Between The Rows

(Continued from Page 1)

Whether the discounts in the marketplace are fair is the subject of an ongoing controversy between grain buyers and sellers.

Several studies have shown that low test weight corn (under 50 pounds/bushel) will produce similar gains in beef feedlots or for fattening lambs compared to higher test weight corn if fed on a weight basis. There appears to be a growing concern in the dairy industry, however, that low test weight corn may not work as well in dairy cow rations as it does in the feedlot.

I am not aware of any controlled studies, however, on this topic. Low test weight corn is sometimes associated with mold problems so this makes grain buyers wary. Low test weight corn can also influence transportation costs. A truck that holds 300 bushels of corn at 54 pounds/bushel would be hauling 16,200 pounds of grain. If the grain were 50 pounds/bushel, then you could only get on 15,000 pounds on the same truck.

Low test weights are usually caused poor kernel fill. In most cases this is caused because the crop did not reach physiological maturity. This is often caused by frost before the crop is mature, but can also be caused by leaf or stalk diseases

that cause premature death.

Hybrids also vary in their inherent test weight because of the differences in the density of the grain. In a strip test we conducted in northern Pennsylvania this year, hybrids of the same maturity ranged for 48 to 53 pounds per bushel in the same field. Hybrids can also influence test weight by being too late for the area where they are planted.

In one of my tests at Rock Springs in 1992, for example, a well-adapted 103-day hybrid had test weight of 55 pounds/bushel, but when we changed to a full season 111-day hybrid our test weight fell to 52 pounds per bushel.

Test weight can also be influenced by other management practices, such as grain drying, but these effects are usually small.

Some basic strategies are necessary to avoid low test weights. Start by considering only hybrids that are adapted and will mature under most conditions in your area. Those hybrids that don't usually reach black layer will be at risk in some years to produce low test weight corn. Some growers appear to rely a bit too heavily on these full season corns that don't usually mature before frost.

When we get a cool year such as 1996, they dry down

slow and have low test weight. Try to limit yourself to 20 percent of your crop in this full season category. Test weights really get low when these full season varieties are planted late.

When we delayed planting our full season corn in 1992 until May 20, the test weight dropped to 48 pounds. Granted, 1992 was a cool year, but it illustrates what can happen. Switching to earlier hybrids from these full season hybrids is critical when planting is delayed. Also, do what you can to avoid planting late.

Another strategy is to screen your adapted hybrids carefully for test weight. I know several corn producers who sacrifice a little yield potential to select hybrids with exceptional test weight. They believe it is important to develop a reputation as a quality grain supplier and this reputation offsets any lost production.

If all else fails, and you still end up with low test weight corn, then you'll need to identify markets when the effects of the test weight on price and production will be small.

In summary, low test weight can be a problem, but it can often be avoided through a strategy of timely planting, hybrid selection, and marketing.

CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.



Hybrids that are too late will often get killed by frost before they mature, resulting in low test weight corn.

IT'S TIME TO GO -- GSI

COMPLETE LINE OF TOP-QUALITY GRAIN DRYERS
EFFICIENT MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES
RELIABLE FACTORY-TRAINED DEALERS
PRIME COMPONENTS
PRODUCT SUPPORT

SONES GRAIN SYSTEMS
Muncy, PA
717-584-2282
Fax 717-584-5350

GSI AFFORDABLE QUALITY

Technology That Yields™

Do you simply want new technology?

Or, do you want *Technology That Yields™* products from Pioneer?

BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	INC./ACRE	INC./UNIT ADV.	NO. COMP.
PIONEER	3153	202 3	26 1	\$564	\$176 79	6
CIBA	MAX454	178 0	22 0	\$510		
PIONEER	3217	192 4	23 7	\$546	\$175 12	7
CIBA	MAX454	171 9	22 1	\$492		
PIONEER	3260	184 8	21 9	\$530	\$101 30	8
CIBA	MAX454	172 0	20 4	\$499		
PIONEER	3335	176 4	22 1	\$504	\$116 92	5
CIBA	MAX88	160 7	19 4	\$469		
PIONEER	3335	193 5	22 3	\$554	\$175 64	18
CIBA	MAX454	174 9	22 4	\$500		
PIONEER	3346	180 3	25 9	\$504	\$32 62	6
CIBA	MAX454	176 5	25 6	\$494		
PIONEER	3394	177 8	21 7	\$511	\$95 53	20
CIBA	MAX454	169 9	23 7	\$482		
PIONEER	3437	169 4	20 5	\$492	\$87 87	7
CIBA	MAX454	163 0	22 9	\$465		
PIONEER	3476	175 3	19 3	\$513	\$133 49	6
CIBA	MAX454	164 4	22 0	\$472		
PIONEER	32K61	176 6	21 1	\$510	\$129 17	8
CIBA	MAX454	162 0	20 3	\$470		

Adjusted Gross Income calculated with the price of corn at \$3.00 per bushel and drying costs of \$.02 per point of moisture. Yield is represented in bushels/acre at 15.5% moisture. Data gathered from Northeastern yield comparisons. For specific plot information, see your local Pioneer sales rep.



Pioneer® brand products are sold subject to the terms and conditions of sale which are part of the labeling and sale documents. Pioneer is a brand name, numbers identify varieties and products. ® TM Trademark and service mark registered or applied for of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Des Moines Iowa USA ©1997 Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

HAMMER MILLS

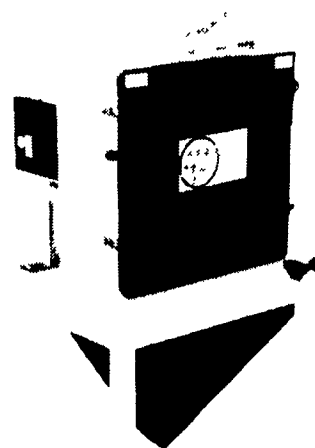
for Grinding High Moisture & Dry Grains



Grinds Finer than Roller Mills.

Features

- Low initial cost
- Low maintenance
- Low operating cost
- Easy serviceability
- 360° screen
- Reversible hammers & screens
- Compact design
- Heavy duty plate magnet
- Dust tight enclosure
- Removable wear plate
- Self locking door latches



Manufactured by:

automatic farm systems

608 E. Evergreen Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

Phone: 717-274-5333

Harold's Equip.	Contact your nearest dealer listed below...	Witmer Implement
Dundee, OH 330-893-2348	A.N. Martin Grain Systems Clyde NY 315-923-9118	Shippensburg, PA 717-532-6139
Rovendale Ag Watsonstown PA 717-538-3564	Marvin Zimmerman Oakland PA 717-463-9731	Zeiset Equipment Manheim PA 717-665-4056
Keystone Mills Romulus NY 315-549-8226	Big Valley Repair Service Belleville, PA 717-667-9358	Cedar Crest Equip. Lebanon, PA 717-270-6600

WE CUSTOM MANUFACTURE.

Painted, Galvanized and Stainless Steel
Fabrication, Feed Blenders, Hoppers,
Covers, Dump Piles, Augers and Control Systems
to Automate Your Operation.