

# RESEARCH UPDATE

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moisture at 65 percent. The corn with no starter or Asset yielded 19.9 tons per acre.

The corn with starter and Asset averaged 19.2 tons per acre. With six paired replications, there were no significant, statistical differences between the two treatments. The application of starter fertilizer plus Asset did not increase yield in this trial.

The Dennis and Douglas Smith farm is located north of Martinsburg, Blair County. The Smiths apply 9,000 gallons per acre of dairy manure per year to the six-acre field mapped as a Hublersburg cherty silt loam soil. Soil test levels in this field were in the exces-

sive range for fertility. Phosphorus was at 388 pounds per acre and potassium was at 459 pounds per acre. This trial was simply 150 pounds per acre of 9-43-10 starter versus more.

The Smiths planted on 5/4/96 with a soil temperature of 58°F. Site evaluations on 6/11/96 showed the corn with starter was noticeably greener. By 6/25/96, when the PSNT test was taken, visual differences were no longer evident. The nitrogen level was high requiring no additional nitrogen. Average height of the corn on 8/8/96 was 91.7 inches with only an inch difference between the two treatments. The population counts were 19,747 for the corn with starter

and 21,606 without.

The corn was harvested for grain on 11/23/96. The average moisture level in the field was 19.7 percent. At yields adjusted to a standard moisture of 15.5 percent, the corn with starter yielded 167.1 bushels and the corn without starter yielded 171.1 bushels. This trial also showed that the starter fertilizer provided no yield benefit.

The Harold and Bernard Bailey farm is located south of Martinsburg, Blair County. Bailey applies 3,500 gallons per acre of dairy manure to the 6.5-acre strip mapped as a Hublersburg cherty silt loam soil. Soil test levels of the phosphorus were 288 pounds per acre and 271 pounds per acre for potassium. These levels are both in the high

range of soil fertility. The Baileys utilize ACA at planting. The use of ACA and starter versus, starter without ACA, versus nothing were compared at this site. The starter fertilizer was 10 gallons per acre of 10-34-0. Aztec was used to control corn rootworm.

The corn was planted on 5/23/96 using no-till and 30 inch rows. The soil temperature was 64°F. Early visual differences between the plots were very evident. The strips

with no starter and no ACA were much lighter in color and were smaller. Samples were taken on 6/25/96 for the PSNT test and showed no additional nitrogen was needed. The corn with no starter and on ACA continued to lag behind in size and color. By mid-summer, visual differences had mostly disappeared. Average height on 8/8/96 was 98.8 inches. Average population count was 21,375. Neither height nor

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