



# CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 24, 1998

## McPhersons Cultivate A-Maize-Ing Entertainment

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent  
NEW PARK (York Co.) —  
Don't cut through the corn.  
Don't pull off any ears. No running.  
No cigarettes!

Got those rules? Then you're ready to take on the challenge of Maize Quest.

After an introductory initiation to the fine art of safely negotiating their way through a corn field, including a pointed warning about how cigarettes can start fires in a dry field, several thousand people did just that last fall at the McPherson family's Maple Lawn Farms, New Park. The southern York County corn maze was one of several such consumer-entertainment outreaches that have been cultivated around the region in the last few years.

Corn rustled as a brisk, fall

breeze stirred through the drying stand of upside-down ears and drooping, brown stalks.

A cricket dashed across a packed path, seeking a haven from a pounding by passing sneakers.

And a gleeful cluster of chattering church-group members gathered to add yet another section to their map of the intricate corn maze. If they could complete the map, it would show them the way out.

Maize Quest was truly a family endeavor of the Paul and Gail McPherson clan, longtime advocates of educating the consuming public about where food originates. From their U-pick orchard to periodic newsletters sent to a wide mailing list of customers, the McPherson's Maple Lawn fruit and grain operation has always been on the leading edge of

agriculture-education activism.

Sharing in the major planning and implementation of Maize Quest, with its heavy emphasis on information along with entertainment, were siblings Hugh and Gretchen McPherson. Hugh, a recent Penn State graduate with an ag business degree, combined his interest in undertaking a new farm venture with the art degree of his sister, Gretchen, who lives in California.

Their brainstorming birthed the Maize Quest idea months before the first corn seed went into the soil. Hugh had heard about other mazes in the area and saw it as an extension and alternative use of the farm's normal planting of a large acreage of grain corn. They envisioned a corn maze that would not only entertain visitors, but

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Despite a year of drought, the attraction drew a lot of visitors who came back twice, or more, during Maize Quest's season, Aug. 2 through Nov. 1.

## Corn Grazing Supplements Cool Season Crops

Mena Hautau  
Extension Agent  
Clyde Myers  
Extension Agent  
Berks County

Cooperative Extension  
LEESPORT (Berks Co.) —  
The "summer slump" is a predictable event for pasture managers using intensive grazing. When managing total feed resources in mid-summer, the approach varies with the operation.

Some producers have enough acres per animal that they can increase paddock

numbers and therefore can maintain feed intake from pasture. Some farm operations have high animal densities per acre. These producers must either provide supplemental stored feed with pasture or rest the dormant perennial pastures and rely on warm season crops.

In Berks County, we have cautiously been encouraging graziers that have acres devoted to summer annuals to experiment growing different warm season annual

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## Weather, High Yield Management At Corn, Soybean Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — At the Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference, scheduled Friday, Feb. 13 here at the Holiday Inn, weather patterns and high yield management are among the topics featured.

Weather patterns and their effects on crop production will be addressed by Paul Knight, Pennsylvania State climatologist. Knight is also known for his co-host role on Weather

World, a popular weather television program produced by WPSX TV.

Managing for high yields will be addressed by Dr. Joe Heckman of Rutgers's University. Heckman has managed a high-yield corn program at Rutgers for eight years and has regularly achieved yields of more than 250 bushels per acre. Heckman's research has shown responses to some unusual fer-

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## PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

### President's Message

Chris Kimmel  
President, PMCGA



The Pennsylvania Corn Checkoff Program Study committee recently sent out 400 surveys to large corn producers in Pennsylvania. The goal of the committee was to get an idea of what these producers thought about a possible corn checkoff.

More than 25 percent of these surveys were returned. The committee was very pleased by this response. According to the results of the surveys received, it is evident at this time that there is not enough support for a referendum vote on a corn

checkoff program in Pennsylvania.

The results of the surveys are acceptable to the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association. The association was asked by the National Corn Growers Association and several neighboring states to look into the possibility of a Pennsylvania state corn checkoff. As a result, the Pennsylvania Committee was formed and work was begun to determine the thoughts of Pennsylvania's corn producers on this matter.

I would still like to encourage you to become a member of the PMCGA. We do a lot to promote your product in Pennsylvania as well as work with the NCGA for export programs and the development of new uses for corn.

See our application form in this issue and our special three-year membership plan.

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## CORN TALK Farm Calendar

Monday, January 26  
Adams County Corn Growers Conference, York Springs Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m., Contact Larry Swartz, (717) 334-0166.

Tuesday, January 27  
Chester County Crops Day, Guthriesville Fire Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Corn Clinic, Kauffman Com-

munity Center, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28  
York County Corn Clinic, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., contact John Rowehl, (717) 840-7408.

Lehigh/Northampton County Crops Day, UGI Auditorium, Bethlehem, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.