

## Soil Organic Contents High — So Are Yields On Chester County Corn Grower's Farm

**ANDY ANDREWS** Lancaster Farming Staff

REINHOLDS (Lancaster Co.) — Crop specialists have known for years that impressive com yields are possible by rotating to corn from a sod or legume.

But one master corn grower looks deeper, and possibly struck gold — in a way — by paying attention to improving soil organic content.

When other fields endured yet another droughty season in 1997, Reinholds-area corn grower Jeff Mitchell took a

**ROOM** 

FOR IMPROVEMENT

growth areas for customer ser-

the Chicago-based Internation-

al Customer Service Associa-

tion, here are 10 industries or

organizations that could take a

closer look at customer service

vice programs?

Who says there are no

According to statistics from

look at one plot — plot number 2, in his records — on previous soybean ground in West Whiteland Township in Chester County which he manages. The plot's soil is Hagerstown loam with a pH of 6.6.

That's not so impressive. But what does stand out is the soil format according to tests conducted recently by a private company.

That plot's soil tested high for organic matter (4.7 percent) with an 11.8 CEC (or "cation exchange capacity," the ability of the soil to hold nutrients for

the plant's use). The plot was located near a PennDOT wetlands restoration project. Having an estimated nitrogen release (ENR) of 127 pounds per acre also helps. (ENR refers to the amount of nitrogen expected to be released from the available organic matter in the soil.)

The soil test showed high to very high levels of phosphorous and potassium with a medium-level amount of calcium and other nutrients. Mitchell conducts no nitrogen

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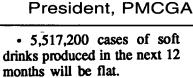


Jeff Mitchell was recently honored as a first-place champion in the Five-Acre Corn Club Contest at the Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference. Jeff farms in Reinholds with his wife Susie and son Matt, 3.

## **PENNSYLVANIA MASTER** CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

**President's Message** 

Chris Krimmel



• 2,488,200 books will be shipped with the wrong cover in the next 12 months.

• 2,000,000 documents will be lost by the IRS this year. • 268,500 defective tires will

be shipped this year.

 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes will be shipped this

• 22,000 checks will be deducted from the wrong bank accounts in the next 60 min-

utes. • 3,506 copies of tomorrow's Wall Street Journal will be missing one of its three sections.

• 1,314 phone calls are misplaced by telecommunications (Turn to Page 6)

## Maximum Yield Goals Require Vigilance

ANDY ANDREWS **Lancaster Farming Staff** GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Think of this: 328 bushels per acre of com.

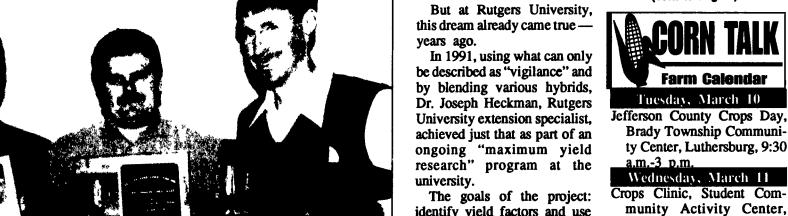
To some growers, this could be simply an after-supper dream as they gaze upon the entry form for the multi-acre corn club contest.

identify yield factors and use methodologies to overcome limitations of the soil, the seed,

and the crops themselves. Heckman spoke to about 200 Pennsylvania Com and Soybean conference at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Of course, the project didn't concern itself with the "economic or practical aspects" of growing a top crop, Heckman noted. The project simply looked for ways to increase vield.

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producers and agri-industry representatives recently at the

Thursday, March 12 Fulton County Crops Day, McConnellsburg American Legion.

pus, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Penn State Schuylkill Cam-

' (Turn to Page 33)



First-place winners in the 5-Acre Corn Club contest are, from left, Jeff Mitchell, Richard Crone, and David Schantz. Read more about them on page 10.