

# 30,000 Could Be Corn's Optimum Population Rate



At a nearby farm, the young farmers are looking at a grain plot involving 14 different companies. Ed Herrmann checks out the plots.

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that will provide the best yields at the best price.

Solanco Young Farmers think they found that optimum rate.

In several planting demonstrations involving grain and silage corn, the optimum population rate could be 30,000 seeds per acre. The best stands were planted this year at that rate, according to Ed Herrmann, adviser to the Solanco Young Farmer Association.

At a corn silage test plot at the Ed Zug farm in Peach Bottom, 12 companies provided seed on three acres of land. Zug, who has been doing test plots at his farm for about eight years, places about 10 tons of dairy manure to the acre.

The soil is conventionally tilled. Planting of the 23 varieties was done on April 30 this year in 36-inch row spacing at a seed rate of 30,000 per acre.

Zug said that herbicide and a 20-20-0 starter (150 pounds per acre of nitrogen) is banded in at planting. When corn is a foot height, he cultivates. At 16 inches of height, another herbicide application is applied with drop nozzles. Also, about a pound per acre of atrazine is used. Herbicides on the plot included six pounds per acre of Counter and 1½ quart per acre of Prowl (banded in row).

Last year, according to Herrmann, Zug harvested about 23 tons of silage per acre. During a field day in July this year, Herrmann noted the field test could yield 27-28 tons per acre.



## CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

At a nearby farm, the young farmers are looking at a grain plot involving 14 different companies. The corn results, including efficacy of herbicides and harvest, are evaluated at a special meeting this month.

At the Victor Brinton farm nearby, the test plot was planted no-till on April 30 this year. Spacing was at 30-inch rows at a seed rate of 29,000 per acre.

At the Eldora Station farm, Aztec insecticide was used at 7.6 pounds per acre. In addition, one quart of Prowl and 1½ quart of Atrazine per acre was used. A cleanup spray for burcucumber was applied, which included ½ pint of Banvil and 2,4-D as needed.

Also, 150 pounds per acre of 30-0-0 fertilizer was used. The

ground receives 3,000 gallons of hog manure per acre.

Herrmann noted that sometimes cultivation pays off in terms of better standability. The conventionally tilled and cultivated silage corn at the Zug farm looked better than the no-tilled corn for grain at the Brinton farm, according to Herrmann.

This is the first time ever for a grain plot and the first time a no-till approach to corn was under test by the young farmers, noted Herrmann.

The results of the corn test plots will be evaluated during the fall and will help plan additional testing.

The plots were open all summer long for inspections by members of the association.

## Grower Named State Winner In National Corn Contest

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — An area corn grower has been named a state winner in the 1997 National Corn Yield Contest (NCCYC), sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Matthew Maximuck of Doylestown placed second in the state in the a no-till non-irrigated class with a yield of 202.19 bushels per acre. The hybrid planted in the winning field was Dekalb DK618.

The local operations was one of 490 winners named out of a total of 3,318 entrants in nine classes in the 1997 contest. The 490 winners produced an average yield of 203/1 bushels per acre, or 17 bushels per acre higher than the 186-bushel average for all contest entrants. The average yield of all winners was 76 bushels per acre higher than the 1997 overall U.S. average corn yield of 127 bushels per acre.

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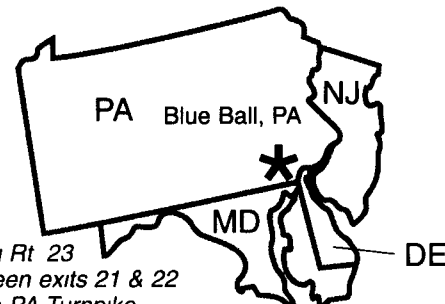
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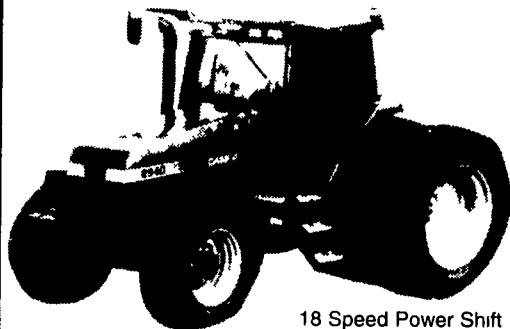


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