

Gettysburg Area Corn Growers

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 the help of the growers, seed dealers, and Penn State Extension Service to look at the genetically enhanced corn for the first time in the county. Penn State is addressing the

question: Are these hybrids going to be cost-effective on farms?

According to Larry A. Swartz, Adams County dairy and crops agent, "It's nice to have Bt corn, but the question

that we want to answer is, does the benefit of Bt corn justify the extra seed cost for the producer?"

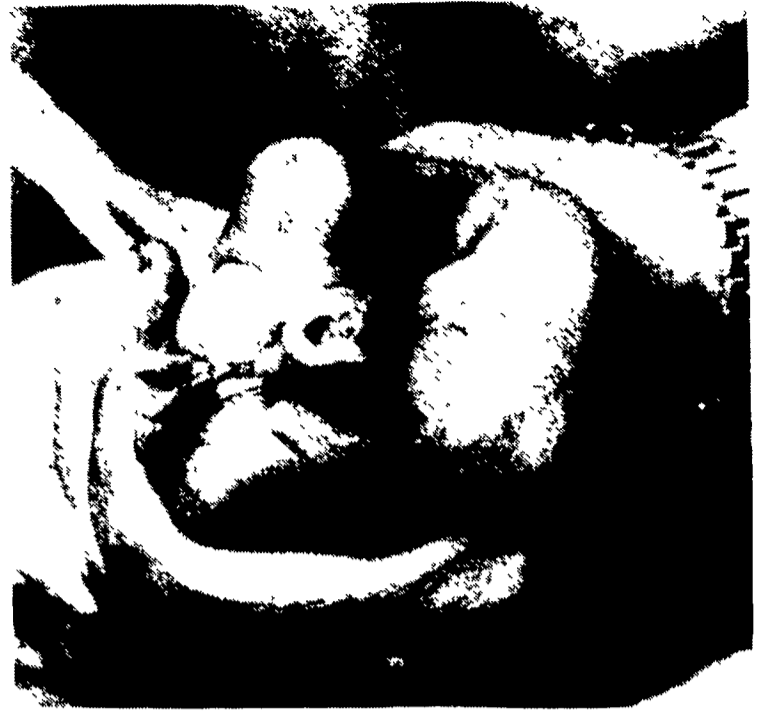
In late June and early July this year, Larry visited several of the farms with the test plots to determine the extent of first generation corn borer damage.

What he concluded: despite the predictions for additional damage from overwintering larvae, the conventional hybrids have not been drastically affected by corn borer populations. They have seen, according to Swartz, some damage from first generation corn borer.

More on the results, including yield data, will be collected in the following months. The data will be presented at several meetings during the winter, including the Adams County Corn Growers Day on Monday, Jan. 25 at the York Springs Fire Hall and at the Cumberland County Corn Growers meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Huntsdale Fire Hall.

Much of the corn was planted early to late May. If the corn will be affected by corn borer, the first generation will attack it in late June, feeding on the yet-to-emerge leaves that are still in the whorl.

In early September, Swartz again scouted several of the fields under study to determine the extent of the corn borer damage. What he found included the typical "shotgun-like" feeding at the "whorl stage" (three feet high) on leaves, damage to the core of the stalks, feeding on the ear



There was some feeding damage on the non-Bt corn from second generation borer. The borer chews into the stalk, leaving residue on the outside, and can move up or down, feeding away, at the center of the stalk. When the stalks turn dry in the fall, they can break — this can have a huge effect on grain and silage yields.

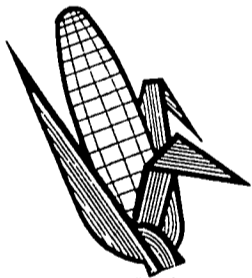


Some kernels were eaten by the borer at the plots.



There was evidence, here, of feeding on the stalk, and other damage from the larvae.

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DAVE FREY Washington Boro, PA Harvested 9/24/98			
Variety	% Moisture	Population	Yield Bu/A
			15.5%
Chemgro 7343	22.8	30,000	201.2
Chemgro 7047	19.8	32,500	198.3
Chemgro 7171	21.8	32,500	196.0
Chemgro 7596	26.6	33,000	192.5
Chemgro 7796	24.2	33,000	192.5
Chemgro 7294	25.2	32,000	187.5
Chemgro X108	19.3	32,000	187.3
Chemgro 7757	28.4	34,000	179.9
Chemgro 7199	25.3	33,000	178.5
Chemgro 6848	18.9	28,000	172.5

CHARLES PHILLIPS Laurel, DE Harvested 9/19/98			
Variety	% Moisture	Population	Yield Bu/A
			15.5%
Chemgro 7047	17.8	22,500	237.8
Chemgro 7171	18.8	23,500	231.6
Garst 8342	20.4	23,000	228.7
Chemgro 713IMI	19.4	21,000	228.4
Chemgro 7343	19.8	21,000	220.4
Chemgro 7199	19.6	24,000	216.8
Chemgro 7114	18.8	22,500	216.4
Chemgro 7596	19.6	21,500	215.3
Chemgro 7757	21.0	21,000	213.4
Chemgro 7294	17.6	22,500	212.8
Chemgro 7692	19.8	23,000	209.6
Chemgro 7798IMI	20.2	23,000	199.6

PLOT WAS IRRIGATED



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