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The Official Publication For The PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC.

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- PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 10, 1998

PMCGA's First President A 'Student of Corn'

RANDY WELLS
Indiana Co. Correspondent

DAYTON (Armstrong Co.) — Despite the relatively dry weather this summer in Armstrong County George Rumbaugh was able to walk into one of his corn fields near here on the first day of September and gaze up at the green stalks stretching well above his head. The ears had filled out nicely (as he noted, and he predicted his crop would probably yield 80 or more bushels per acre.

Rumbaugh probably knows as much about growing corn as any farmer in his county and perhaps the state. He had not only been growing corn but studying it for years when he was asked in the early 1970s to serve as the first president of the newly formed Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA).

George was a student of corn. He not only grew it, but

he watched it to see how it reacted to weather and soil conditions, said Bill King a retired Armstrong Penn State Extension Service

agent. Rumbaugh lives on the Wayne Township Armstrong County farm his great grandfather bought in 1857 and he

lives in a 131 year old brick farm house along with a two lane blacktop that winds through the rolling farmland. Eventually the farm was

divided between his grandfathers and his great uncles — In those days you could raise a family on 50 acres, Rumbaugh said — and today at age 76 Rumbaugh operates part of the original farm with his son David. Their 360 acre spread has about 260 acres of tillable land.

Rumbaugh was taking a critical look at his corn crops even before PMCGA was started. Rumbaugh along with extension agent King and Willard Kummel another Armstrong County farmer conducted some of the first interval corn planting tests in the state.

Despite the conventional wisdom of that time that corn should not be planted before mid May the three men started planting corn as early as mid April — six rows each of the same seed variety in the same field — and continued the weekly plantings through May. The results

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Lush, alternating contour strips of corn and hay swirl across much of the 360-acre Rumbaugh farm in eastern Armstrong County

30,000 Could Be Corn's Optimum Population Rate


ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
PEACH BOTTOM (Lancaster Co.) — Producers often seek

that "optimum population rate." That rate is the amount of corn seeds to put down per acre.

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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.



PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Chris Krimmel
President, PMCGA

Another growing season is coming to an end — and it's been a very active spring and summer for the PMCGA and the NCGA.

The ethanol battle was won once again. Special thanks to all of you who took time to send a seed corn tag with your Save Ethanol

message to your congressional leaders. Because of our combined efforts ethanol production

will use more than 600 million bushels of corn each year adding 43 cents per bushel or

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CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, October 13
Corn Silage Management meeting, Solanco Young Farmers Association, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3
Ag Service School, Meadville,
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A harvester demonstrated to the crowd at Ag Progress uses a rotating blade. See story page 14.