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The Official Publication For The PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC.

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CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 30, 1999

Producer Uses More Bt Corn On Littlestown Farm

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LITTLESTOWN (Adams Co.) — Tim Brown spent a hot, dry afternoon one day last summer holding back the leaves of corn while Larry Swartz, crops agent, scouted for corn borer damage.

One large stalk was turning the color purple at the top. There was definite sign of pest feeding.

With a quick motion, Swartz opened his pocketknife and sliced into the stalk, cutting the center open to the sun, revealing a borer, happily feeding away on the farmer's profits.

"There that little sucker is," said Tim, helping Swartz break the stalk apart to glimpse the thumbnail-sized, slimy, ribbed worm. "Chop his head off."

Corn growers are fully aware of how much damage to the crop a pest such as the European corn borer can be. Only in the last few years have producers begun to adopt biotechnology to the arsenal of weapons to rid fields of the damaging pest.

Brown, a registered Holstein dairy farmer near Littlestown, (Turn to Page 4)



Tim Brown, a registered Holstein dairy farmer near Littlestown, cares for about 200 acres in corn. The past year about 45 acres were devoted to a transgenic

type of corn, called Bt (short for *bacillus thuringiensis*). The Bt corn kills the corn borer without the use of insecticides. Photo by Andy Andrews

Corn Program Offers A-Maize-ing Facts, Eye-Opening Reality




Lori Lauver, youth programs coordinator for Juniata and Mifflin counties, show students grocery items that are made from corn. Lauver is holding the book "Corn is Maize" written and illustrated by Aiki. The Cooperative extension agents donate a copy to each school they visit through this corn program.

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co.
Correspondent
LEWISTOWN (Mifflin

Co.) — Ask a fourth grader to identify the corn products in a grocery store, and he or she

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PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy Associate Professor

SURVIVAL SKILLS IN ANOTHER LOW PRICE YEAR

The other day I managed to find myself in the unusual position of being awake at 5:30 in the morning, so I tuned in to the Ag Day program on TV for something to do. One of the first things featured was a commodity analyst describing how he thought the outlook for corn prices continued to be bleak throughout 1999. Initially, I thought about going back to bed. Then I thought back to the recent Top Gun Conference we conducted in Mercer in December and some of the strategies that came up at that meeting for coping

with low prices. On strategy was marketing skills. There was considerable discussion among producers and speakers at the conference.

about positioning yourself in the market as best as possible. This included developing a reputation as a quality supplier.

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CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

Monday, February 1
Silage and Forage Expo, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, February 2
Beaver County Crops Day, Big Knob Grange, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

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