

ULTIMATE REPORT CARD Donald C. Fretts **Washington County Extension Agent**

One of the great frustrations of being an agronomy agent has been the inability of really helping producers get an accurate measurement of crop yields. I believe before one can aspire to greater accomplishment, one must know where they are starting from. The ultimate report card for crop producers is quality yield per acre.

There are different measures of quality crops — net energy, protein, TDN, fiber, etc. — and they all need to be related to per acre yield.

It is important to know that local producers can produce 150 bushels of corn per acre, or six tons of high quality hay per acre, etc. Unfortunately, most producers only can guess as to actual yields and also most producers guess high.

The point I am making is that to adequately measure the return on inputs applied to crop production, some actual yields need to be measured.

Well, after four and one half years

of trying, I have actually acquired a set of portable scales that can be used to measure yields of all crops, including forages and grains. I will be using the scales for measuring yields of agronomic plots that are established in the southwest Pennsylvania area cluster, and I would like to work with farmers who want to do some yield measurement of their crops.

All you need to do is call me, with as much advanced notice as possible, and I will do my best to be available to work with you on the actual harvest day.

By actually determining true yield, farmers can do a better job of decision-making relative to crop inputs and field management.

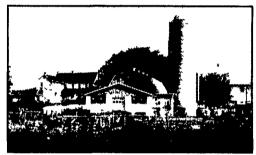


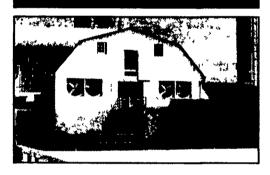


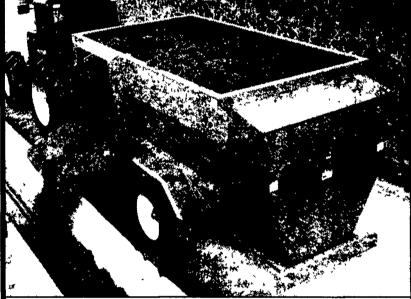












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