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The Official Publication For The
**PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN
GROWERS ASSOC.**

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IN
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**JANUARY
29**

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FRIDAY,
JANUARY 21, 1999



ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
PARADISE (Lancaster Co.)
— Sometimes corn has a lot
more uses than you can
imagine.

You know the standard uses
— corn flakes, beverage
sweetener, alternative combus-
tion fuel, and others.

But there are more uses than
you might have read about —
and that includes, of all things,
entertainment farming.

Why not make a show out of
the front five acres? That's
exactly what Cherry Crest
Farm, operated by Jack and
Donna Coleman in Paradise,
did. This year marked the
fourth time in a row that the
Colemans put up the "World's
Largest Attended Maze," in
which every year a new
"theme" for the corn maze is
selected.

The maze, taking up five
acres, was planted in the shape
of the Keystone State itself,
complete with the four cities
making up the corners (Phila-
delphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, and
Scranton-Wilkes Barre). In the
center is the shape of the Liber-
ty Bell, along with ribbons
along the corn row "paths" of
the maze painted a different
color to represent a section of
the maze (yellow for the Liber-
ty Bell, green for the state out-
line, red the Paradise Star, and
white the stars of the major
cities).

The "Land of Liberty" theme
proved especially attractive for
area tourists. Each day during

the season the maze averaged
about 1,200-1,500 visitors. Last
year about 50,000 visitors
showed up to tour the maze, in
the shape of Noah's Ark. The
first year the maze was laid out
in the shape of a locomotive
and the second year, a horse and
buggy.

At the top of the maze, north
of the "gameboard," was an
America flag made up of
14,000 petunias. According to
Coleman, the one third acre
flag was planted the third week
of May this year, contracted
with Good Harvest, Strasburg.

The corn maze itself, which
opened July 2, was planted with
Pioneer 32K62, a Bt hybrid,
full season variety. The corn
was planted May 5 in 30-inch
rows. The maze theme outline
was gridded out and, when the
corn was less than eight inches
tall, a crew worked a hoe to
shape. A few aerial photo-
graphs were taken before the
final shape could be finished.

The drought emergency this
year had an effect on some of
the tourists, but luckily, accord-
ing to Coleman, enough rain
had fallen. In mid-July, two
irrigations were needed to keep
the corn stalks from turning
brown and brittle.

The maze employs about 15,
mostly youth, from around the
region. The Colemans also care
for 60 cows on their dairy, in
addition to 50,000 broilers
under contract with Tyson.

The maze is open Sept. 3
through Sept. 18 Friday and
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The maze included an extensive petting zoo, mini-mazes, hay rides, food, refreshments, gift shop, and weekly special events. This year the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association and Penn State Extension Service also had a corn products stand at the maze. From left, Jack Coleman and right, Del Voight, Lebanon County extension agent, at the stand. Photo by Andy Andrews



Jeff Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO) School District Adult Farmer Program adviser, center, spoke to about 80 farmer and agri-industry representatives in June during the third annual ELANCO Adult Farmer Program Spring Meeting at the Eugene Martin Farm south of New Holland. See story page 3. Photo by Andy Andrews

**PENNSYLVANIA MASTER
CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy Associate Professor

**AN END TO A VERY
LONG YEAR**

I'm sure the 1999 growing
season had as many days and
hours as previous seasons
but for many of us it sure
seemed like a longer than
normal year.

For many Mother Nature
threw a few curveballs that
resulted in some dreadful

corn crops being produced
around the state.

Fortunately, this kind of
season is a rare occurrence
that we hope does not reoccur
for the remainder of your
careers.

I thought I might be good
to revisit a few of the issues
we ran into this summer and

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