

CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 29, 2000

Despite Dry Weather, Webster's Corn Posts High Yields



A dry year translated into an early harvest for Ansel Webster. All the corn was taken off the first week of October with average yield of 177.3 tons per acre (dry basis). He credits "Mother Nature and the Lord" for his achieving high corn yields in a drought year. Photo by Carolyn Moyer

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Tioga Co. Correspondent
TIOGA (Tioga Co.) — "I've never reached 1,000 tons before," said Ansel Webster. He credits "Mother Nature and the Lord" for his achieving high corn yields in a year when many farmers watched their crop wither away in the drought of 1999.

His average yield was 5.49 tons per acre. On a dry matter basis, that translates to 177.3 dry shell bushels per acre.

This year on the whole 185 acres, "I had 1,015.17 tons of high moisture corn," said Webster. "I was top dog last year for the county. I don't know where I am this year."

The highest yield he usually has is around four tons per acre.

"We must have had some really heavy dews along that river and enough rain when we

needed it," said Webster, who plants a 95-day corn on his sandy loam soil.

"We can get by with 100-day corn, but if you go over that, you're really pushing it as far as high moisture shell corn. Of course for silage, you don't have to worry about it as much. That can vary quite a bit."

Because of the dry weather, corn dry down was faster than usual.

"We started combining the first part of October, which is really two weeks earlier than we generally do, so this year has been an exceptional year. We were all done this year by the time we generally start," said Webster.

Webster's corn is custom combined, placed right on trucks and moved to the farm which has purchased it. All of Webster's corn is harvested for

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Farm Calendar

Tuesday, February 1

Decisions 2000 — Agricultural Marketing Seminar, Days Inn, Allentown.

Crop Master Series, Planter Setup and Maintenance, George V. Seipel and Son, Easton.

Beaver County Crops Day, Big Knob Grange, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 2

Butler County Crops Day, East Butler Fire Hall.

Thursday, February 3

Crop Master's: Farming After The Drought, Integrated Crop Production School, Holiday Inn, Bethlehem, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

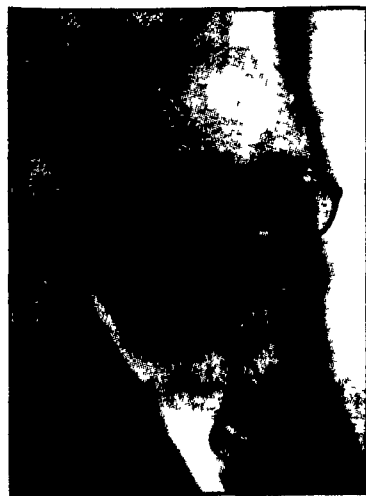
Lawrence County Crops Day, (Turn to Page 6)

Corn, Soybean Conference Feb. 8

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Dennis Avery, director of global food issues at the Hudson Institute, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean conference Feb. 8 here at the Radisson Penn Harris Convention Center.

Avery's topic will be "The Crucial Moment for American Agriculture."

Avery believes that producers are looking at one of the biggest opportunities in farming history. Mark your calendar (Turn to Page 2)



Dennis Avery



Insect and disease management school participants look over samples of plant disease. See story page 8. Photo by Andy Andrews