

# ★ A LANCASTER FARMING EXCLUSIVE ★

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

A SPECIAL SECTION IN LANCASTER FARMING OCTOBER 14

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Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 4, 2000

### Catastrophic Crop Insurance A Must For Bethlehem Grower

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
**BETHLEHEM**  
(Northampton Co.) — Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA) Vice President Guy Wagner knows how important catastrophic insurance, or CAT, can be for producers. Because of last year's devastating drought, Wagner recalls that the corn on 40 acres was so worthless he simply plowed it in. CAT insurance for Wagner amounted to \$60 per crop. "I always took it," he said during an interview late in December at his farm.

Farmers experienced about a 70 percent crop loss in the county. "How could you not, especially the past year, when producers got less than half a crop?" Ever since Wagner purchased the farm business from his father, Walter, in 1990, he has bought crop insurance for his 880 acres of corn and 400 acres of soybeans, for a total of \$120. As for CAT insurance, "most don't take it," said Guy. "They never thought the year could have been like this either. You just never know." CAT insurance pays off only a fraction of the crop. (Turn to Page 5)



Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA) Vice President Guy Wagner knows how important catastrophic insurance, or CAT, can be for producers. CAT insurance for Wagner amounted to \$60 per crop. "I always took it," he said during an interview late in December at his farm. Photo by Andy Andrews

### Many Factors Go The Way Of Five-Acre Winners

**GAIL STROCK**  
*Mifflin Co. Correspondent*  
**EMPORIUM** (Cameron Co.)—She says farming is expensive, and would he like to try bowling instead? The humor in LuAnn Reed's voice soon turns to pride when she talks about her husband, Jeff, farming part time on his family farm, and winning the 1999 Pennsylvania 5-Acre Corn Club

Award in the hand-harvest class with 204.3 bushels per acre. Jeff and LuAnn Reed both work full time off the farm. In their spare time, they farm about 45 acres of cropland on his home farm plus an additional 60 acres on his father, Earl's, farm. What pleases this Cameron County couple the most (Turn to Page 6)



The height of the corn on Earl Reed's farm on July 4, 1999, exceeded everyone's expectations. Shown here, left to right, are LuAnn, Jeff, and Earl Reed.

**PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Between The Rows**  
**Dr. Greg Roth**  
*Penn State Agronomy Associate Professor*

**WHERE CAN YOU CUT CORNERS ON CORN PRODUCTION?**  
After last year's dreadful year, many corn growers are asking where and how they can reduce input costs in corn production. The key is to focus on those inputs that give us the most consistent responses to our investment. Let's review how each of several common corn inputs have produced a return on investment in our trials here at Penn State. One input you might think about is seed in our trials there is often a large variation in performance—about 30 to 40 bushels per acre. So this

input is not one to cut corners on. Some, but not all, premium-priced hybrids are top yielders. Check out independent data to get some idea how new hybrids perform. Our trials have shown relatively low (3-4 bushel per acre) yield responses to the Bt gene itself under normal planting conditions, as have (Turn to Page 3)

**CORN TALK**  
**Farm Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 8**  
Field Crop IPM, Weed, Insect, and Disease Management, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 9**  
Schuylkill County Crops Clinic, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill (Turn to Page 6)

- RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
- CORN YIELD INPUTS
- GROWER FEATURE
- STATE & NCGA NEWS