



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Be Careful, Or There'll Be Consequences

Insect resistance management.

Corn growers are becoming ever more acquainted with this terminology. They ought to be. Because if they don't observe the proper kind of program, the high-technology corn that keeps bugs low and crop yields high could become a grower's nightmare.

In the section of *Corn Talk*, published in this week's issue of *Lancaster Farming*, Penn State entomologist ("insect expert") Dennis Calvin provides some strategies to deal with new varieties of transgenic corn. The new corn has "stackable" genes — meaning ways to deal with corn rootworm and European corn borer are built into the plant.

For Pennsylvania growers, that amounts to 20 percent of corn acres should be "non-Bt" corn to act as a refuge to deter resistance.

However, corn varieties with a combination of corn borer and rootworm traits could make managing them complex, because of the insects' different life cycles. Researchers — and the marketplace itself — are going to have to work on ways together to come up with the best management strategies. It's going to be touch-and-go until those strategies are worked out.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) has set up an information site on the Web. Just go to their Website, www.ncga.com, and click on the left-hand icon under Insect Resistance Management.

We urge all corn growers to be careful in using those varieties. What with environmental concerns being the front-burning issue of today, only by acting wisely and responsibly can we continue to make biotechnology even more valuable.

Biotech has brought us some great herbicide-tolerant corn crops, too. According to Bob Hartzler of Iowa State University, Australia faces some of the worst herbicide resistance problems in the world. As a result, they've launched a major research and extension program called the Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative to address this issue.

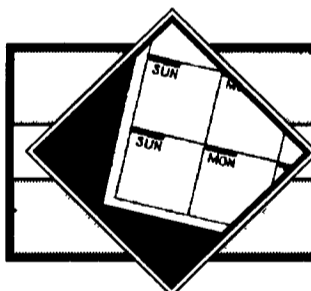
Why has this happened? Because of the mindset of growers, he noted, that herbicide resistance is something that can be dealt with after the fact rather than something to manage prior to emerging as a problem.

If you read a paper published by the Initiative, according to them, growers "down under" believe in herbicide exploitation until resistance develops. They're not thinking about tomorrow, they just want the weed-free crops today.

We have to think differently in this state and this country.

Science could bring us corn that could prosper in drought, ward off all insect pressure, and that you could spray once for weeds and forget it. All the while producing yields, perhaps, into the hundreds of bushels per acre.

But that could all be lost unless these critical first few years of biotech are treated with respect and proper management is employed.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, October 14
Ohio Beef and Forage Day, EORDC, Caldwell, Ohio.
Backyard Composting Workshop, 4-H Building, Troy Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-noon.
Sunday, October 15
Lehigh County Open Gate Farm

Tour, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
York County 4-H Recognition Program, York County 4-H Center, 1 p.m.
Monday, October 16
National Poultry Waste Symposium

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FARM FORUM

Editor:

Your opinion column ("Accountability Is Key") in the Oct. 7 issue was called to my attention by some local pork producers.

Accountability to producers for the use of checkoff funds is something on which there is whole-hearted agreement. However, what is accountability in

the mind of the producer and what cost/benefit will be acceptable?

As an example, the following is a list of a few accountability items that are in place in the pork industry:

- A board of directors is of which the members are elected by their peers
- A producer board that makes decisions on the projects

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Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

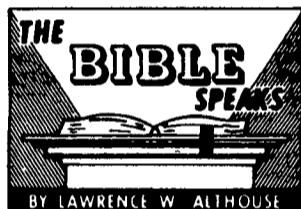
To Look At Frosted Corn

Corn may be damaged by cold weather anytime the temperatures remain below 32 degrees for 4 to 5 hours or anytime the temperature drops to 28 degrees for only a few minutes, reported Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

The amount of yield loss is directly related to the stage of maturity when the frost hits.

The following are the expected yield losses based on corn maturity when the killing frost hits:

- Black layer formation: 0 percent yield loss
- Hard dent: 5 percent yield loss
- Dent: 9 percent yield loss
- Soft dough: 15 percent yield loss



DAVID'S LAMENT

Background Scripture:

1 Samuel 31:1 through 2 Samuel 1:27; 1 Chronicles 10.

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 77:1-9.

You might think it strange that it is David who leads Israel in lamenting the death of Saul, Jonathan, and their soldiers on Mount Gilboa.

Although David and Saul had once been close, Saul's bitter jealousy of David had forced him to flee and hide for several years. Had Saul captured David it is likely he would have had him executed.

Still, Saul's animosity did not seem to evoke the same response from David, who refused to take Saul's life even when he had several opportunities (1 Sam. 24,26). Perhaps David's memories of their past friendship restrained. Maybe it was because of his strong friendship with Jonathan, Saul's son. Another reason is suggested in 2 Samuel 1:14,16, when, questioning the Amalekite sojourner, David calls Saul "the Lord's anointed."

Despite everything, the Lord's choice of Saul as king was more important to David than the danger that Saul represented to him.

Relationships between people are often strained and ruined because of the malign or careless acts of one or more of the persons. Yet, often we ought not to write off these people. We need to remember the good times as well as the bad and try to rebuild the relationship on that basis.

Sometimes, when people come

- Late milk: 36 percent yield loss

- Silking: 100 percent yield loss.

As with grain yields of frosted corn, silage yield will also be reduced, depending on the stage of maturity of the corn plant when the killing frost occurs.

The earlier the frost kills the plant, the lower the grain yield will be. In addition to low yields, frosted corn that is not mature will have low grain test weight and will dry very slowly in the field.

To Consider Ensiling Frosted Corn

A frosted corn crop may be salvaged for silage on many farms, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

When frosted corn is put in the silo, the first concern is that corn that has been killed by frost will appear dryer than corn with similar maturity that has not been frosted.

Several sunny days after a killing frost will cause corn leaves to brown, giving the appearance of mature corn. However, the stalk and ear will still contain a high percentage of moisture. Special care is needed to make sure that the whole plant moisture content is in the proper range for silage in the type of structure it will be stored in.

For conventional upright silos the optimum moisture content for corn silage is between 63 and 68 percent moisture. For a shallow trench, the moisture content increases to between 68 and 72 percent moisture and for sealed structure the moisture content

decreases to between 45 and 55 percent.

A second problem could occur when the moisture content of the corn is too low. If corn is too dry for proper ensiling, consider adding water to it at the silo. Depending on how dry the silage is, it takes between 50 and 75 pounds of water per ton of silage to increase the moisture content one percent. A gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds, therefore it takes between 6 and 9 gallons of water for each one percentage increase in moisture content.

To Pick Up Farm Show Premium List

The premium list for the 2001 Pennsylvania Farm Show is available at your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

This year's Farm Show will be Jan. 6-11.

The premium list includes the rules for the show, classes, prizes, and entry deadlines. There are several divisions that have Nov. 2 deadlines, including dairy, livestock, poultry, and hay. Others have a Dec. 15 deadline.

The premium list also has a tentative schedule of events. This year the Farm Show will be offering \$300,648 in premiums, an increase of about \$26,000 more than the 2000 show.

So pick up your premium list today. Make your entries and plans for the 2001 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "We cannot change yesterday. We can only make the most of today and look with hope toward tomorrow."

How Are The Mighty Fallen

2 Samuel 1:18 indicates that David's poem of lamentation was preserved in the Book of Jashar, an anthology of the early poems of Israel. Although we no longer have it today, in addition to this poem of David there are in the Old Testament — (Josh. 10:13 and 1 Kings 8:13) — two additional extracts from that book. That David's poem was in conclusion in the Book of Jashar is strong evidence that it is original with David, for in it there is a marked absence of religious feeling. If editors had thought it was not original with David, they probably would have not included it in 2 Samuel.

David is a strong man, but this strong man is able to do what many people cannot: he publicly expresses his grief—for Saul, for Jonathan, and for the nation. "David lamented with his lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son..." (1:17).

Apparently David's countrymen did not think it unmanly or weak of him to grieve publicly for Saul and Jonathan. So why does that point of view not prevail today? Why do we want to hide and play down our grief?

David says that his lamentation "should be taught to the people." Expressions of grief can be a learning experience for us, a chance for all of us to grow as David and the people of Israel did when they unashamedly grieved over their tragic loss.

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—by—

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Editor

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