



Corn Fields Should Be Evaluated Now

DES MOINES, Iowa — While walking your corn fields this summer to scout for insects and weeds, take a look at the actual stand in each field. Evaluating this year's stand could be the start of a better crop in 2002.

"A field walk now is a good idea," says Gregg Carlson, professor of plant science at South Dakota State University. "While there's no chance to fix any problems, evaluating the stand as it's growing does allow producers to clearly identify problems and solve them for 2002."

Problems can include the presence of skips (missing plants) and doubles (two-plant hills) caused by poorly calibrated or out-of-condition planter meters. Poorly spaced corn can deliver lower yields, while research has shown that equidistant plant spacing can have a positive effect on yields.

In studies conducted by agronomists at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., plant spacing was measured and standard deviation was calculated. The lower the standard deviation, the more uniform the stand and the better the yields. Pioneer's research showed a 4-1-bushel

per acre increase for each one-inch improvement in standard deviation. Similar research at Purdue University showed a 2.5-bushel per acre yield increase per one-inch of standard deviation improvement.

To determine the standard deviation of a corn stand and the estimated impact on yield, take 30 consecutive corn plants and measure the distance between each corn plant. Repeat this process four times in randomly selected areas throughout the field. These spacing figures are then used to calculate the standard deviation, which can be done using any standard spreadsheet software. Keep in mind in a perfectly planted field where all plants are 7.0 inches apart, the average spacing is 7.0 and the standard deviation 0. If 50 percent of the spacings are 6.0 and 50 percent are 8.0, the averages spacing is still 7.0, but the standard deviation is 1.0 inch.

In the Pioneer research, sites showing only a slight improvement in standard deviation (less than 1.0 inch) had an average yield increase of a modest 1.8 bushel per acre. Conversely, where the standard deviation improvement was moderate (1 to 2 inches), yields improved by

5.0 bushels per acre. In more extreme cases where standard deviation was improved by more than 2 inches, the yield improvement averaged 15.9 bushels per acre.

While many things can influence stand quality and profitability there are three key planting objectives to strive for:

- Uniform depth and spacing of seed placement,
- Correct number of seeds per acre and,
- Creating the best possible environment for seeds to germinate rapidly and emerge uniformly.

"Experienced corn growers know they benefit from uniform stand establishment," says Hall. "The most effective way to achieve this uniformity is to use sound agronomic practices along with quality seed and a well-calibrated planter."

Hall recommends growers visit with their local Pioneer sales professional or agronomist for assistance with stand evaluation this season and for help with planter calibration and maintenance before planting next year's crop. They can also visit www.pioneer.com/metermax for more information.

Craftsmen Demonstrate During July Celebration

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen will be celebrating its 55th annual State Craft Fair at the Franklin & Marshall Sports and Fitness Center July 27-29.

The Guild members' work is featured in elite museum catalogs across the country. Their crafts have appeared in Hollywood films such as "The Patriot," featuring Mel Gibson, and Oprah's movie "Beloved." They've been showcased on "Lynette Jennings Design" on the Discovery Channel. They have even decorated the White House Christmas Tree.

Some of the Guild's finest craftsmen will demonstrate their art live for all to see. Featured artists include basket weaver Vivian Aron, whose traditional weaving style stems back to the

days of the Gettysburg War; James Barnett, who will demonstrate the art of tinsmithing; Art Stilson, will bring Saint Nicholas to life through clay sculpting; Sandra Coldren, who was featured on "Lynette Jennings Design," will demonstrate the old art of Theorem painting; Bob Dewitt, also featured on "Lynette Jennings Designs," will hand-carve wooden spoons and bowls; Marge Erickson, who will weave "wearable art;" Ned Foltz, whose redware pottery is collected by Hollywood stars, will demonstrate Sgrifitto; Linda Horn will demonstrate the ago-old art of corn husk doll making; and Barbara Miller will demonstrate wheat weaving.

Cost of admission is \$6, and new to this show is the option of purchasing a weekend pass good for both days for only \$9.

Liquidation Auction June 29

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — The Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC) has announced a major liquidation auction of its remaining assets at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg.

The auction will be Friday, June 29 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Letterkenny Building 41.

A partial listing of the inven-

tory being sold at the auction includes construction equipment, trucks, vehicles, trailers, material handling equipment including cranes and forklifts, machine shop and specialized equipment and tools, welders, ground maintenance equipment, warehousing equipment, office furniture, specialized electronic and mechanical calibration equipment and many other related items.

Two Farmers Win \$1,000 In Hytest Promotion

SHIREMANSTOWN (Cumberland Co.) — With a check for \$1,000 from Hytest® Seeds in their hands, Barbara Schenning, of Bel Air, Md., and the Yautz Brothers, of Easton, are among the delighted winners of the Hytest Seeds "Hybrids Built To Feed/Hybrids Built To Yield" promotional contest.

Schenning, whose farm produces grain and silage corn and alfalfa for a 300-head dairy operation, and the Yautz Brothers, who produce Hytest alfalfa, along with corn, soybeans and wheat, were randomly selected

from hundreds of entries in the Hytest Seeds direct mail promotion. The third winner in the contest was Jim Scheele, from Oglesby, Texas.

Hytest Seeds is a widely respected as a leading producer and marketer of high yielding forage and grain seed products, including corn, sorghum, alfalfa, legume and grass varieties. Research trials show that the company's "Built To Feed" forage products can significantly increase milk production from dairy herds and increase daily rate of gain for feedlot cattle.

Land Pride 25 Series Disc Harrows

SALINA, Kan. — The newest additions to Land Pride's Disc Harrow line, the DH25 Series, are the 60-inch, 72-inch and 96-inch harrows — ready to tackle your toughest conditions. From produce farms to conservation plots and even roadside work, these harrows are built to give excellent results.

Designed for tractors up to 100 HP, the Cat. 1 and 2 hitch will fit a variety of tractors, for a variety of uses. The four-inches by three-inches gang tubes and 1

1/8-inch square axles easily handle the heavy torque load the disc blades can be put through. The bearing hangers feature 1/2-inch plate and 3/8-inch U-bolts.

The 25 Series Disc Harrow is available with 20-inch or 22-inch notched disc blades. Available in 7 1/2-inch spacing, the front and rear gangs can be angled up to 21 degrees for optimum aggressiveness. Angling is simplified with an adjustment handle on the front and rear gang. Optional disc scrapers are available.

ASAE Tractor Design Competition Bridges Gap Between Good Student And Good Employee

ST. JOSEPH, Mich. — Experience gained by students participating in the International Student Design Quarter-Scale Tractor Competition of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) goes well beyond honing their technical competence. It also enhances the nontechnical skills employers look for — and don't always find — in prospective employ-

ASAE Past President Gale Holloway, CNH-Case Corp., explains, "It's an excellent way for students to prepare for and gain exposure to what they are going to be facing when they get out into the professional world — technical challenges, problem solving, a team-player environment, and the need for project management and communication skills."

To participate in the competition, teams must not only design and build a quarter-scale tractor, they must use written and oral communication skills to convince a panel of judges (playing the role of 'upper management' in a fictitious equipment manufacturer) that their design is the best. The team must also secure funds for components and for travel. For one of this year's competitors, a team traveling all the way from Malaysia, the latter will total some \$35,000.

That commitment to meet numerous challenges is a sharp reflection of the caliber of the students that participate in the Quarter-Scale contest. "The competition draws the most ambitious and goal-oriented students. This project is extremely demanding and stretches the students' knowledge and capabilities to new limits," says event co-chair Kelly A. Detra, of CNH-Case Corp.

Former Kansas State team member Andrew Grollmes, now with John Deere Harvester Works, agrees. "The Design Competition gave me an understanding of very real-world situ-

ations," he says. "The process of fund raising, designing and building our 2000 tractor was excellent training for the skills that I now use daily."

The Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Competition is made possible by Briggs & Stratton, Case Corporation, Caterpillar Inc., Cub Cadet, Deere and Company, and New Holland, with additional support from Bridgestone/Firestone, Campbell Scientific Inc., Digi-Star, Grasshopper, Midwest Super Cub, Milwaukee Tool, and

Snap-On.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers is a professional and technical organization dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. Founded in 1907 and headquartered in St. Joseph, Mich., ASAE comprises 9,000 members representing more than 90 countries. For further information about the Society or its Student Design competitions, contact Dolores Landeck at ASAE, (616) 428-6339, landeck@asae.org.

Callisto™ Corn Herbicide Registered

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Syngenta Crop Protection has received registration for Callisto™ corn herbicide, a new post-emergence product that controls nearly all the major broadleaf weeds in corn.

Developed from a naturally occurring herbicide in the Callistemon citrinus plant, Callisto

brings a new mode of action to broadleaf weed control in corn. It offers post-emergence and residual control of the toughest broadleaf weeds in corn, excellent crop safety, a favorable environmental profile, a wide window of application, and a low use rate.

Wile Joins White Oak Mills Dairy Division

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — White Oak Mills Inc. has announced the addition of Larry Wile, of Lancaster, to its management and dairy teams.

Wile will serve as White Oak Mills' vice president, Dairy Eastern Division. Focusing his expertise and sales efforts in southeastern Pennsylvania, he will concentrate specifically on meeting dairy producer's nutritional and management needs. His responsibilities will also include overseeing and providing strategic direction to White Oak's eastern dairy team.

Wile graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science degree in management/marketing. Employed by Purina Mills for the last 19 years, he served most recently in the areas of product formulation and nutritional consulting services.

"We're excited by the opportunities, experiences and technical proficiency Larry will be bringing to our organization and by the contributions he'll make to our dairy team," says Mark Wagner, White Oak Mills president. "He'll be an asset to our company, our dairy team, and our customers."

MILK
AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK™