

★ **A LANCASTER FARMING EXCLUSIVE** ★

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

A
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SECTION
IN
LANCASTER
FARMING
**OCTOBER
13**

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A bumper corn crop resulted in a huge pile of corn at Risser Grain. Family members, from left, are Debbie, Brent, Mark, and Ann with dog, Wiley.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

**Forward Pricing Critical
To Corn Growers'
Economic Survival**

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor
HOLTWOOD (Lancaster Co) — "You can no longer put corn in a bin and wait on prices," said Ann Risser, Risser Grain.
Risser, who with her family are celebrating 25 years in the grain elevator business, are trying to spread the word about the realities of grain buying and selling. Farmers need to "have a marketing plan," Risser said, including simple forward pricing.
Ann, with husband Mark and son Brent and Brent's wife, Debbie, operate a grain business with three locations, serving about 2,500 customers. With headquarters in Holtwood, the grain business picks up and delivers grain to areas in Lancaster, York, and other southeast Pennsylvania counties, all of Maryland, and into New York.
At Holtwood, all 150 tillable acres are rented. Late last year, the location housed two piles of grain overflow. Both covered, one pile included 200,000 bushels or 11 million pounds of corn. Another, when it was piled, included about 50,000 bushels. The corn is on top of a 120-foot square concrete pad and covered by a heavy plastic bunker cover.
Storage at the Holtwood location, noted Brent Risser, is more than 550,000 bushels. They can store 250,000 bushels.
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Crop Winners Announced At Keystone Farm Show

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor
YORK (York Co) — Winners of the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club Contest were announced here at the York Fairgrounds in mid-January during the annual Keystone Farm Show.
Dan Wolf, president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA), noted that of the 103 entries in the corn contest, there were some "notable differences," he said, in cultural practices compared to the 1999 contest. Only 7 of 91 growers used cultivation, with most growers using 30-inch row spacing. The second highest spacing was 38 inches apart.
Wolf noted it is "hard to find significant differences in yield to favor one type of tillage over another," he told those attending the awards presentation at the fairgrounds.
About 44 percent of the contestants use sidedress nitrogen. Average planting depth was 17 inches. Corn acres grown by participants numbered 24,242.
For the most part, the year was substantially different in terms of total yield, a vast improvement from the state-wide drought of the previous summer. "Some don't appreciate how good of a year it was," Wolf said.
Greg Roth, Penn State
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Corn contest winners announced at Keystone Farm Show. From left, Susan Johnson, herdsman, accepting for Nelson Beam, Elverson, second place, shelled grain class, nonirrigated no-till; Jim Hershey, Elizabethtown, first place, shelled grain class, nonirrigated no-till; Bob Shearer, Mount Joy, third place, shelled grain class, nonirrigated tilled; and David B. Bivens, Big Cove Tannery, third place, ear corn class. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

**CORN TALK
Farm Calendar**

- Tuesday, March 6
Pa and Del No-Till Conference, West Middlesex, Pa
Also March 7, Hotel Magee, Bloomsburg, Pa, and March 8, Carlisle, Pa, and March 9, Dover, Del
- Wednesday, March 7
Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference, Bloomsburg's Hotel Magee
- Capitol Region Row Crop Herbicide and Insecticide Update, extension office, Adams County, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8
Mid-Atlantic Tillage Conference, Penn-Del Conference Center, Carlisle, contact Mark Goodson, (717) 840-7408
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- **CORN MAZE MARKETING**
- **SEED PLACEMENT STRATEGIES**
- **NCGA, PMCGA NEWS**