



CORN TALK

PENNSYLVANIA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Section E

Corn Talk, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 19, 2002

Fulton County Grower Manages Under Unique Conditions Drought, Deer, Microclimate Are All Part Of The Mix In Great Cove

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

McCONNELLSBURG
(Fulton Co.) — Russell McLucas's fields lie just west of the

Tuscarora Mountain in a little valley called "The Narrows." It is part of Great Cove, a larger valley in the area north of McConnellsburg, near the

Fort Littleton exit of the turnpike.

McLucas faces some unique challenges here, but in 30 years of farming he's devel-

oped a variety of ways to deal with them. While corn is one of his main crops — representing about 300 of the 650 acres he farms — he knows better than to stake his livelihood on it.

The list of reasons includes tremendous deer pressure, drought, pests, and often low prices.

As part of a diverse approach, McLucas has made a successful business of growing mixed bromegrass and timothy hay and marketing it in 700-pound round bales, mostly to dairy farmers within a 50-mile radius of his home. He grows some wheat and other

(Turn to Page E2)



Russell McLucas's grain system allows him to dry 25-percent moisture corn for about 7 cents a bushel and store half a year's crop. After initial drying, a forced air system in the large bin runs inexpensively until January.

Photo by Dave Lefever



PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Between The Rows

Dr. Greg Roth
Penn State Agronomy Associate Professor



WINDING DOWN A NASTY YEAR

Mother nature provided many educational demonstrations to those who paid attention this year. We learned again that corn can recover from severe frost in most cases. We found out this year, though, when corn gets frosted of three times, or when it gets to the five leaf stage and is frosted, survival can be reduced.

We learned again that our weather is unpredictable.

When it was hot and dry in April, it soon changed to cold and wet in May and June and then back to hot and dry in July and August.

The changing weather patterns resulted in many opportunities for crop stress throughout the season. Early, the rain and cool temperatures in May caused lots of purple corn throughout the countryside. This happened because cool temperatures

(Turn to Page E5)

Camden Farm Hosts 2002 Va. Corn, Soybean Exposition

GAY BROWNLEE
Virginia Co. Correspondent
PORT ROYAL, Va. — A

Regional Cropping Systems project on Aug. 15 was the featured educational opportunity for some 750 persons who descended on Camden Farm for the 2002 Virginia Ag Expo in Caroline County.

Supported by the United Soybean Board, the Foundation for Agronomic Research and the USDA, the main research of the multistate project is being done on 60 of the 2,150 acres Camden depends on for growing corn and soybeans.

John R. Pratt and Beverley C. Pratt are the owners, but since 1969, John (Johnny) F. Davis has been the man farming Camden and Tommy Hicks is the fellow he depends on to help him do it.

When Jaunsee Terrell, 26 and Jason Stover, 10, arrived on the grounds, their attention



John F. (Johnny) Davis, who farms Camden Farm in Caroline County, exits a Deere 8400 tractor at the Corn and Soybean Expo. He took a run down the field to experience the sensation of allowing the global positioning system to guide the machine via satellite.

Photo by Gay Brownlee, Virginia correspondent



CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

- Thursday, October 24
Conference to Highlight Trends and Opportunities in Agriculture, State College, thru Oct. 26, (717) 787-5085.
- Monday, October 28
Certified Crop Adviser School, Holiday Inn, Grantville, (717) 921-8803.
- Wednesday, October 30

- Drought Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville, (717) 840-7408.
- Wednesday, November 6
Northeast Pa. Quality Forage Conference, Mansfield Fire Hall, Mansfield, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., thru Nov. 7.
- Thursday, November 7

(Turn to Page E3)

(Turn to Page E4)