

Camden Farm Hosts 2002 Va. Corn, Soybean Exposition

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the soybean aspects, yields, conclusions, and soil comparisons.

Tillage research on Maryland's Eastern Shore was discussed by Ron Mulford. Dr. Bobby Grisso discussed equipment technologies used in the study, variable rate seeding and variable rate fertilizer applications, and also light bar navigation systems.

Dr. Rod Youngman had specific information to share about the plots at Camden and the evaluations of corn seed treatment, control of soil,

and above-ground insect pests.

Other tours showed the replicated large plots of corn seeded with a Great Plains precision drill, comparing 30-inch rows with twin rows planted on 30-inch centers. Liz Rucker, Harry Behl, and Dr. Dan Brann fielded questions.

Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, said Davis and his co-workers are using the latest technologies to produce grain crops efficiently on Camden Farm.

"A very high standard of

management is always evident by the straight rows of almost weed-free crops, with only water as a limiting factor to yields," Swiger said.

The dean also observed that the type of research happening on 60 acres is one way that producers can learn the impact of changing a number of practices on crop yields over a number of years.

"It is interesting to note that two of the cropping systems are continuous no-till, a practice that is gaining acreage in eastern Virginia," he said.

Swiger noted the grain drying and storage facilities at Camden. "Mr. Davis is using these grain facilities to market bread wheat to mills in Virginia."

Eric Randolph, president of the Virginia Corn Growers Association, offered encouraging words. "Sometimes it is difficult to be upbeat about farming in years like this. Each of us is doing battle with the heat and the drought and it often seems that we are on the losing side. Events like this one give us an opportunity to think beyond this season as we view the exciting knowledge and innovation that are coming our way."

As far as the Virginia Soybean Association, president David Barnes called the research lead by Alley "excellent."

"This study...is part of a multistate program to improve yield, profitability and environmental integrity of the

small grain, corn, and soybean production systems in our area."

Camden itself is a Rappahannock River Plantation listed on the Virginia Historic Landmark Register. Named in honor of Charles Pratt, the first earl of Camden and champion of the American cause in England during the Revolutionary War, it has been home to the Pratt family since 1790.

The present manor house, built in 1859, is a national historic landmark.

Sponsors of the event were the Virginia Soybean Association, Virginia Corn Growers Association, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and Virginia Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

PCGA Elects New Officers

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — At the recent board of directors meetings in Landisville, the PCGA board elected three new officers.

Guy Wagner of Bethlehem was re-elected president, Jeff Werner of Fredricksburg was

re-elected vice president, and Russell McLucas of McConnellsburg was elected new secretary-treasurer.

Mike Kuhns stepped down after a term as secretary. The board is grateful to Mike for the excellent job he did.



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