

CORN TALK

Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association

★ INCLUDES HYBRID REPORTS ★

Lancaster Farming • Section F • Saturday, February 1, 2003

A Little Bit Of 'Barley,' A Lot Of Herefords Help Make Corn Contest Winner A Success

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

McCONNELLSBURG (Fulton Co.) — "I don't like to play golf or sit around the house — I like to farm," said Harry Johnston, Back Run Farm.

Johnston not only operates a 400-acre farm but also works full-time at Agronomy, Inc. in Mercersburg. The company sells fertilizer, spray, and seed and offers crop consulting and soil testing.

Perhaps it is this experience with crops and soils that has given Johnston an edge in

farm management. Although his studies at Penn State (he graduated with a degree in agronomy) gave him a basis of understanding of crops, his work has really given him an opportunity to see "what other farmers do, and see what work for them," he said.

He has come in as a first-place winner in the three-year average division of the 2001 Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club Contest. He also won second place in the ear corn class.

Johnston works Back Run Farm with his father, also

named Harry Johnston, a general practitioner, who helps with farm work on the weekends and sometimes throughout the week.

The farm, consisting of 400 acres, includes about 110 acres of corn, 80 acres of soybeans, and the remainder in timothy hay that is sold to horse owners.

A cow-calf herd of 50 head of Hereford and Simmental/Hereford crossbreds also resides on the farm. The Johnstons also market beef to a

(Turn to Page F14)



Corn grower Harry Johnston is joined by friend Winter and dog "Barley." Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Taylor To Speak At Pa. Corn, Soybean Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — The 2003 Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference will bring together some of Pennsylvania's top corn and soybean growers to hear some topics on how they can better plan for the future and improve their bottom line. This year's program will kick off at 9 a.m., Feb. 7 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

The featured speaker at this year's conference is Marcia Zarley Taylor. Taylor is a Des Moines, Iowa native with 20 years experience in farm poli-

cy, agricultural finance, and environmental reporting. Since 1990, Taylor has served as editor of Top Producer magazine. Marcia recently was awarded the 2002 Jesse Neal Award for her series entitled "Brazil the Competitor You Can't Ignore" published in Top Producer.

In her presentation, she will discuss not only the grain production potential of Brazil but also recent investments in grain processing and hog and poultry production and what we must do now to remain

competitive. The morning program includes speakers on soy beverages and the Penn State football team, how to maximize the quality of corn and soybeans, and discussion of how the movie "Signs" was produced using a Pennsylvania corn field.

Our afternoon sessions will feature some in depth workshops on the Farm Bill and Crop Insurance, again with several top speakers.

Sam Willet, nationally rec-

(Turn to Page F19)

Farmers Learn About Twin Row Corn At Field Day

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

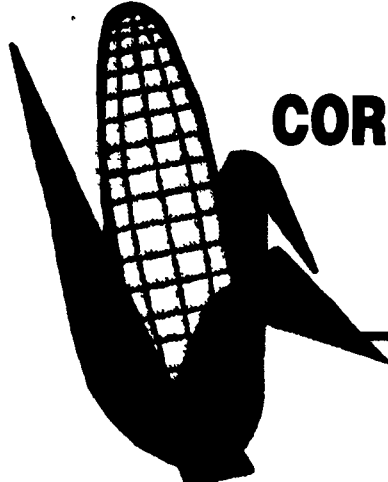
MILLERSTOWN (Perry Co.) — Farmers are always looking for early canopy, uniform plant spacing, and preserved moisture for their crops.

These issues are characteristic of narrow (7½-inch) rows, according to Penn State studies, says Scott Brown, C.B. Hooper,

Inc. Brown discussed the subject at a field day in Perry County this August.

Earlier work at Penn State, where twin row corn was evaluated against 30-inch rows of corn, showed that the twin row corn had better moisture utilization and was 12-18 inches taller than 30-inch rows. The study showed


(Turn to Page F19)



PENNSYLVANIA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Guy Wagner
President, PCGA





CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

DROUGHT AND MARKET DECLINE
I'd like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous 2003. Being a grower myself, I realize that this business is not nearly as easy as it used to be. Farmers as a whole are having a very difficult time making it work financially. It is hard to not be discouraged by having 1970s prices for our products and 2003 prices for everything that we buy. I'm always amazed by the fact that

two small bottles of water in a convenience store cost as much as a bushel of corn is worth. The deep drop in the grain markets since September does not help either. It is difficult to look at your own crops being drought-stricken and watch the market decline at the same time. I know that many of you are struggling with the combination of poor crops three of the last four years and low prices on top of it. Even the dairy farmers are not immune with low milk prices as well.

On Feb. 7 the PCGA and the Pennsylvania Soybean Board will present the Corn and Soybean Conference at the Holiday Inn at Grantville. I'm excited about the program. Marcia Zarley Taylor will be the featured speaker. She has been the editor of Top Producer magazine since 1990. Since 1998 she has traveled to Brazil four times to learn more about our biggest competitor. She was recently honored

(Turn to Page F11)

- Monday, February 3**
Chemical Producers and Distributors' Association Mid-Year meeting and trade show, Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, Va., thru Feb. 5, (703) 548-7700.
Adams County Crop Clinic, Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (717) 334-6271.
- Tuesday, February 4**
Tilling the Soil of Opportunity, Cayuga County Cooperative Extension, Auburn, N.Y., thru Feb. 5, (315) 787-2622.
- Wednesday, February 5**

- Pesticide Update Meeting, Clarion County Extension, Clarion County Park, 1 p.m., (814) 782-0033.
 - Thursday, February 6**
York Corn and Crop Clinic, York 4-H Center, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (717) 840-7408.
Grain Marketing Meeting, Dutch Family Restaurant, Millington, Md., 7:30 a.m., (410) 778-1661.
 - Friday, February 7**
Corn and Soybean Conference, Holiday Inn Grantville, (814)
- (Turn to Page F7)