

Area Grower State Winner In National Corn Yield Contest

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — An area grower has been named a state winner in the 2002 National Corn Yield contest (NCYC), sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Gerald and Scoop of Milton, placed third in the state in the A no-till/strip till nonirrigated class with a yield of 206.7193 bushels per acre. The hybrid planted in the winning field was Pioneer 33B51.

The local operation was one of 497 state winners nationwide. This year's contest had a total of 3,291 entries from 46

states, topping last year's total despite disastrous weather conditions throughout much of the nation. The top yield in the contest — a record-breaking 442.14 bushels per acre — was produced by Francis Childs of Manchester, Iowa, who claimed the nation's highest yield for the fifth consecutive year.

As seen so often in the past, success in the face of adversity was the story of corn growers again in 2002, as nature sent the usual challenges of flood, drought, and heat.

Producers have used the

contest to improve their operations by getting a unique opportunity to compare their own proven corn production capabilities with farmers across the country, said NCGA President Fred Yoder. "The contest highlights competition among our growers and offers them a chance to strive for excellence and get the most they can per acre."

The winning national yields ranged from 224.3 bushels per acre in the A Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated Class to 442.1 bushels per acre in the AA Non-Irrigated Class. The average

yield of all winners was 210.6 bushels per acre, 10.8 bushels above the 199.8 average yield of all contest entrants.

Contest winners used a total of 159 different hybrids, compared to 509 hybrids used by all entrants. Fifty-one different seed companies were represented in the contest.

Farmers are encouraged through the contest to utilize new, efficient production techniques. A summary of agronomic data gleaned from the contest shows the following:

- Average plant population for winning entrants was 31,547 plants per acre; average harvest population was 29,858, compared to 29,596 for all entrants.

- 84.4 percent of all entrants planted their corn in 30-inch rows.

- 11.5 percent of winners applied in the fall, 35.0 percent preplant, 63.0 percent sidedressed and 68.4 percent applied as a starter.

- Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 1.04 pounds for winning entrants, slightly below the agronomic requirement of 1.1 to 1.2 pounds per bushel.

- 13.0 percent used manure.

- 97.4 percent used herbicide, while 75.8 percent used herbicide and cultivation.

- 40.7 percent used insecticide.

- 65.2 percent planted after soybeans, while 21.5 percent planted after corn.

The winners were recognized Feb. 28 at the 2003 Commodity Classic, the combined convention and trade show of the NCGA and the American Soybean Association, in Charlotte, N.C. For a complete list of winners and for more information about the NCYC, visit the NCGA Website at www.ncga.com/02profits/CYC/main/index.html.



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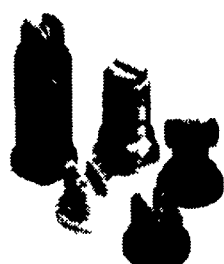


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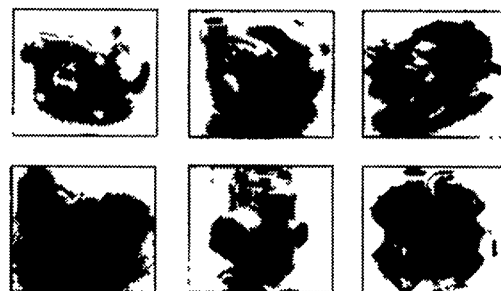
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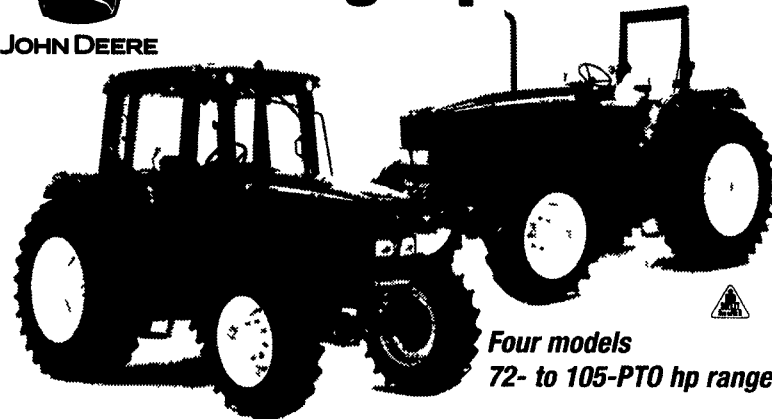
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