

He Plants Corn, Beans At Same Time

Charles Hodel, Eureka, Ill., plants corn and soybeans at the same time in a 12-row planter. The center 6 rows plant beans and the outer 3 rows on either side plant corn.

"When six rows of corn stand alone they get extra light, better moisture, increased air movement, and the corn is better able to withstand drouth. Yield increases run as high as 50 bu. per acre in a dry year," says Hodel. He uses herbicides compatible to both crops (Dual and Basagran) and side dresses nitrogen onto corn. He plants at a date that's late for corn and early for soybeans — usually around the middle of May — and plant populations on the Max-Emerge planter are set at about 27,000, which works out well for both corn and beans.

Hodel positions bean rows in the middle because his bean



cultivating and harvesting equipment is the most sensitive to row variation. Corn yields have averaged 10 to 20 bu. higher on strip-cropped ground. Soybean yields drop slightly.

Hodel's corn-bean planting idea was selected as one of 20 best conservation tillage ideas by Ciba-Geigy. For a free copy of a booklet detailing all the ideas, contact: Karen Smith, Ciba-Geigy Corp., P.O. Box 18300, Greensboro, N.C. 27419 (ph 919 292-7100).

and yielded as well as later maturing varieties. **Dekalb T1100** yielded 10 to 20 bu. less than other corn varieties. It had the highest moisture content at about 23% even though it was planted first and combined last. It also showed more stress than other varieties," says Roger Hanson, Ida Grove, Iowa.

Kevin Schrack, Loganton, Penn., seeds 450 acres of corn with 11 main varieties. He also plants many others in a series of test plots. "This past year **Pride 4474** failed to meet our expectations. Its yield, standability and population at harvest were not good enough to remain in our program. **Pioneer 3352**, on the other hand, produced an excellent stand at harvest, and had great yields at over 150 bu. per acre."

"**Dekalb 640** is ideal for our soil and grows well every year. We use it for silage but it also produces a nice ear and yields well. **Dekalb T1100** didn't do well for us. Just wasn't the corn that it's been talked up to be," says Mike Spittle, Hershey, Penn.

"**Crows 444** is a consistent leader in many categories such as yield, standability, and heat tolerance," says Steve Conrad, Decatur, Ind., about his "best buy".

"**Stauffer 3306** yielded best for us on dryland," says Bill Koeckeritz, Appleton, Minn.

Marlin Furhman, Cummings, Kan., planted both **Pioneer** and **Funks** last year and says Pioneer came out on top. "Pioneer 3377 has superior standability, harvests easy, has good ear retention, and is tops in yield. We'll plant much more this year. **Funk's 4522** lodged, dropped ears, and didn't yield with our other varieties."

Gary Howe, Decatur, Mich., planted several varieties of both **Agri-Pro** and **Pioneer**. "Agri-Pro AP391 is my best buy because its yield equaled the best of Pioneer and it cost \$7.00 less per acre. Standability of some of the Pioneer corn was not as good either."

"We planted four **Pioneer** varieties

and 3737 was the best. It stood up well, was 5 points dryer and it out-yielded other varieties. **Pioneer 3906**, on the other hand, was wet and hard to get off the cob," says Francis J. Zimmerman, Waseca, Minn.

"**Agri-Gold 6865** had the most disease, poor standability, and the lowest yields," says Bob Shipp, Radcliff, Ky., whose "best buy" varieties are **Pioneer 3378** and **3320**. In all he planted 9 different varieties from 7 different companies. He no-tilled about half his ground last year and says it yielded as good or better than regular-tilled ground.

"Out of four **Pioneer** varieties, 3732 got the best yield and had above average test weight. Good standability and ear retention. It's consistently excellent year after year. **Pioneer 3901** got good yields and dried down fast but it's plagued by poor ear retention and poor stalks," says Bruce Runck, Springfield, Minn.

"Both **Schuman** and **Renk** seed have performed very well for me but **Schuman SS245** is the best because of better yields, good standability, and the price. And you get single cross seed at a 3-way cross price," says Clarence Zeman, Cato, Wis.

Jacob R. Lehman, Jr., Chesapeake, Virg., likes **Pioneer 3184** because it's ideal for silage. "It grew fast but matured slow. Our worst buy is **Funks 4520** because it dried down too fast for silage."

"Out of 6 different varieties, **Select Seed 4500** yielded over 200 bu. per acre and was 15 bu. higher than others in the same field. **Pioneer 3747** yielded only 'so so' and it had a magnesium problem. None of the others in the same field did," says Dick Beck, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio.

Vic Gardner, Houston, Minn., says **Dekalb 505** is his "worst buy". "Poor germination and soft kernels at harvest. **Jung 2650** is our best variety. Good germination, standability and a savings of \$13.77 per bu. for seed."

"**Jacques 167** was our worst variety last year because it was badly affected

Do you feel pressured by the farmer-dealer method of selling seed corn?

"I would rather deal directly with the company because you can voice complaints easier and return bad seed," says Maurice Syme, Weiser, Idaho.

"I don't feel pressured. The farmer-dealers I do business with understand before I buy that if I don't like the seed I won't buy again," says Doug Wedermyer, Wakeeney, Kan.

Howard Wagler, Morgantown, Ind., prefers buying from farmer dealers. "They've got experience with the seed so they know what they're talking about."

"I like the idea but I do feel pressured. I wish the price of seed corn would come down. They should cut the amount of advertising and lower the price to \$50 or \$60," says Mark Kenan, Rippey, Iowa.

"At times I feel pressured or obligated to buy from neighbors. You don't want to hurt their feelings. Companies should quit bugging farmers — at least until their crop is harvested," says Willard Kath, Reeseville, Wis.

"If we get many more farmer-dealers there won't be enough companies to service them," notes Roger Larson, Worthington, Minn.

"Our seed dealers aren't close neighbors so there's been no problem," states John W. Nelson, Brayton, Iowa.

Russell Buechler, Hurley, Iowa, doesn't feel pressured. "You have to

make decisions based on what's best for your operation."

"I feel pressured. I don't like salesmen calling on me. I'll find what I want on my own," says Raymond Brown, Kellogg, Iowa.

"It doesn't make any difference to me who I buy seed from as long as the price and quality are competitive. Would like to see them eliminate some varieties in an effort to lower price," says Chris Nystrup, Akron, Iowa.

"You get more understanding and interest from a farmer dealer. It's more personal," says Merrill Thornton, Jamestown, Ohio.

"I like farmer-dealers because they have tried the different varieties and know what varieties will work on what soil type and what works best for no-till, and so on," states Don Parker, McCutchenville, Ohio.

Kenneth Adams, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, likes buying from farmer-dealers. "But I don't like them coming to my place. I know what I want by talking with other farmers at the coffee shop."

"Who could I trust more? At least I can get ahold of him when I need him," says Charles Hodek, Jr., Lankin, N. Dak.

"I find it hard to tell a neighbor that his corn did not do well for me. If he really pressures me I might buy one or two bags and hope he gets the message not to come back," says Larry Morrow, Covington, Ohio.

by drought. **Pioneer 3475** was the best. Good yield and faster dry-down," says Charles A. Pech, Lamont, Iowa.

Richard Armstrong, Perrysville, Ohio, planted just two varieties of corn last year, both from **Schlessman**. "Until last year I have always planted around 15 varieties from 6 different companies. I've planted **Schlessman SX600** for 5 years and it's always been as good or better than the others. It's also \$10 a bag cheaper."

"**Rupp 1520** is our best buy. It provides an excellent yield, dries down fast, and was less costly. Another **Rupp** variety, 1591, is our second best buy. **Pioneer 3744** gave us our worst corn. Moisture content varied widely and it did not yield as well. It's higher priced, too," says Frank J. Tomac, Chesaning, Mich.

"Our best variety is **Keltgen KS-95**. It had slightly higher yields than Pioneer last year and was driest at harvest," says Robert Wiechmann, Wager, S. Dak.

Would you like to see premium programs — hats, jackets, trips, etc. — continued?

"They should discontinue these programs and lower the price of their seed," says Alan Gramlow, Fullerton, N. Dak.

Melvin Hanson, Emerson, Neb., would like to see larger premiums discontinued. "They should give larger cash discounts for early prepayment instead."

"They should cut back on both premiums and high-gloss centerfold ads in magazines. I also wish they'd wait till after harvest before trying to sell seed for next year," says Raymond Hoover, Manheim, Penn.

"I like the way George Jacques is running his new no-frills seed company which was recently featured in FARM SHOW. We don't need premiums. Just lower prices," says John Morse, Hampton, N.J.

"Small gifts are okay but I don't think volume discounts or free trips are fair to the smaller farmer. They only benefit the big farmers and the smaller farmers pay for them. They should lower the prices. They didn't have any trouble raising them when corn prices were going up," says Bruce Runck, Springfield, Minn.

Dennis Jahrans, Eureka, S. Dak., likes caps but says, "The more expensive premiums, such as free trips, should be eliminated and the product price reduced."

"Premiums are great. They make you feel the company appreciates your business," says Ivan Duke, Bargserville, Ind.

Donald Burdette, Owensboro, Kent., likes premiums. "As much as we pay for a bag of seed it feels good to get a gift."

"Premiums cater to big farmers who buy lots of seed and I end up paying for them," says Craig Stoltzfus, Elverson, Penn.

"Premiums don't mean anything to smaller farmers because we never qualify for them," says Mark Teets, Egdon, W. Virg.