Grain Plot Planting

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Corn Grain Yield Trial
by Eric Nixon

In an effort to assist our growers in variety selection for next year's corn seed purchase, WNYCMA decided to conduct a corn grain yield trial. This was our second year organizing a grain plot, focused mainly on yield and maturity.

This year's trial included twenty-five different hybrids from seven seed companies evaluated on three farms throughout WNY. The locations for the trials were Mae Len Farms (Marilla, NY), Zuber Farms, LLC (Byron-Bergen, NY) and Hy-Hope Dairy (Stafford, NY).

The trial design called for each of the cooperating farms to plant 30" rows and harvest six rows of each variety on two replications in the same field. (Due to extenuating circumstances, only four replications have been harvested.) The average final populations were 31,000 – 33,000 plants/acre. Fertilizer and herbicide programs were followed as per WNYCMA recommendations.

The plots were measured at 400 – 650 feet in length and harvested when grain moistures were acceptable for combining and weather permitted. Every hybrid was weighed in WNYCMA's grain weigh wagon at each location for a trial total of four yield recordings. Grain samples were taken at harvest and tested for moisture and test weight immediately in our office using a DICKEY-john grain tester.

Location information:

The Marilla location was planted on 5/9/2014 following corn silage in 2013. Zonetill tillage system was used and soil fertility was very good. One replication was harvested on 10/23/2014 and, because the grain moistures were higher than 25%, harvest of the second replication was postponed. As of 12/17/2014, the final replication still has not been harvested. Despite the farm having received 70+ inches of snow the week of 11/17, the corn is standing surprisingly well.

The Stafford location was planted on 5/15/2014 following corn grain in 2013. Zonetill tillage system was used and soil fertility was also very good. Both replications were harvested on 12/1/2014 without any issues.

The Byron-Bergen location was planted on 5/28/2014 following corn silage in 2013. Striptill tillage system was used and soil fertility was good. Only one replication was planted and harvested here due to seed shortage. The plot was harvested on 11/10/2014 without any issues.

We would like to thank Axis Seed, Channel, Doebler's (RPM), Dairyland Seed, Hubner Seed, Mycogen Seeds and Seedway for their participation and financial support in the trial. A special thank you to our cooperators; Leonard and Mike Janiga, Eric and Kim Zuber, and Dick and Shane Totten for their time planting and harvesting the plots and use of their land.

			Marilla			Byron			Stafford			Average		
Company	Variety	Day Length	H2O % at Harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/ac @ 15.5%	H2O% at Harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/ac @ 15.5%	H2O % at Harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/acre @ 15.5%	Moisture % at Harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/acre @ 15.5% Moisture
Doeblers	RPM2215 AMX	82	20.1	50.7	**183.6**	17.2	55.9	**192.1**	16.6	50.3	**156.1**	17.97	52.30	177.27
Hubner	H4054 RC2P	85	21	52.1	**202.1**	17.4	55.7	**180**	16.5	53.2	**182.2**	18.30	53.67	188.10
Dairyland	DS-7085	85	20.8	51.8	**193.8**	18.2	56.5	**178.5**	16.7	56.1	**180.6**	18.57	54.80	184.30
Mycogen	2J238	88	23.6	49.1	**200**	19.6	52.9	**197.1**	17	53.4	**198.3**	20.07	51.80	198.47
Hubner	H6039 RCSS	89	22.9	48.3	**213.3**	18.5	54.2	**196.6**	17.1	52.6	**198**	19.50	51.70	202.63
Doeblers	RPM428 AMX	91	24.2	51.1	**204**	20.2	54.2	**190.2**	18.6	52.4	**192**	21.00	52.57	195.40
Seedway	SW3100 GENSS	91	23.3	51.1	**217.5**	18.7	53.7	**180.8**	17.8	54.3	**203**	19.93	53.03	200.43
Dairyland	DS-9791 RA	91	24.3	50.9	**225**	19.1	53.3	**186.7**	17.9	53.9	**202.5**	20.43	52.70	204.73
Channel	192-09 VT3PRIB	92	23.8	50.5	**241.7**	18.1	54	**194.7**	17.8	53.5	**200.3**	19.90	52.67	212.23
Hubner	4157 RC2P	94	23.3	50.9	**241.2**	18.1	54.6	**195.7**	17.5	54	**225.9**	19.63	53.17	220.93
Dairyland	DS-9694 RA	94	24.7	50.3	**214.2**	19.2	53.8	**172.7**	17.8	53.6	**199.15**	20.57	52.57	195.35
AXIS	AX45 T62	95	21.3	51.9	**240.5**	20	53.9	**217**	17.6	54.5	**209.7**	19.63	53.43	222.40
Doeblers	RPM448 AMX	95	21.1	47.6	**218.7**	20.4	53.5	**220.7**	17.9	53.8	**198.5**	19.80	51.63	212.63
Mycogen	2V357	95	22.4	48.8	**227.6**	19.4	54.1	**187.7**	18.1	53.6	**212.8**	19.97	52.17	209.37
Hubner	H5151 RC3P	95	21.5	49.3	**240**	18.8	54.3	**216.3**	17.4	53.6	**222.3**	19.23	52.40	226.20
Mycogen	2A400	95	24.9	48.5	**221**	20.3	54.3	**216.6**	18.4	54.6	**192.4**	21.20	52.47	210.00
Seedway	SW3808 VT3P	97	22.4	50.7	**235.6**	19.1	53	**218.2**	17.3	52.8	**202**	19.60	52.17	218.60
Channel	197-33 STXRIB	97	24.7	47.8	**230.1**	20.8	52.6	**224.3**	18.7	54	**229.8**	21.40	51.47	228.07
Hubner	H6191 RCSS	99	26.2	48.2	**243**	19.6	51.3	**223.1**	18.4	53.1	**226.5**	21.40	50.87	230.87
Hubner	H3297 RR	99	26.6	47	**234.5**	20.8	52.2	**220**	18.3	54.3	**208.2**	21.90	51.17	220.90
Doeblers	RPM4315 AMXT	103	25.3	52.3	**235**	22.1	53.4	**226**	19.8	51.3	**208.9**	22.40	52.33	223.30
Channel	203-44 STXRIB	103	28.6	51.5	**234.9**	21.4	52.2	**205.2**	20.6	53.4	**218.8**	23.53	52.37	219.63
Dairyland	HIDF 3702-9	104	32.9	49.3	**208.3**	23	50.7	**213.9**	21.1	49.7	**211.4**	25.67	49.90	211.20
AXIS	AX54D58	104	31.5	52	**233.6**	23.2	52.5	**208.8**	21	52.7	**215.7**	25.23	52.40	219.37
Doeblers	RPM563 HXR	105	33	51	**234.5**	23.6	51.1	**219.3**	21.2	53.5	**223.2**	25.93	51.87	225.67
		Av.	**24.576**	**50.108**	**222.948**	**19.872**	**53.516**	**203.288**	**18.284**	**53.288**	**204.73**	20.91	52.30	210.32

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Manure Storage?
by Lori Whittington

Our recent newsletters have addressed concerns about manure spreading during inclement weather. As we head into another winter in upstate New York, some of you may be considering a manure treatment system as a tool to help avoid daily spreading dangers.

Outside of the obvious advantage of more timely application of manure onto your cropland, a manure storage can provide other benefits. It will create a reduction in the volume of manure due to decomposition and evaporation. This means less material to apply. Storing manure can also reduce the level of animal pathogens, which, in turn, lessens biosecurity concerns and health risks.

Along with the benefits, there are implications that require planning. First is the large amount of manure that will have to be handled in a short period of time. This not only may require additional personnel, but different equipment. Although there is a loss of nutrients when you store waste, which can mean less land needed for application, a waste storage is not the answer for a disproportionately large volume of manure. Consider reduction of stored waste first, for example, a solids separator, covered storage, and bedding changes. (One note of caution with solid separation: it creates very runny manure. Although the nutrient content is reduced, the likelihood of runoff and leaching into tile lines is increased.)

Manure storages are not a one-size-fits-all structure. Depending on individual circumstances and needs, designs can vary. Gravity-fed manure storages can be advantageous. If you will need to pump manure to the waste storage, find out the cost of the equipment and transfer lines, as these costs can be prohibitive. Treatment processes are available that can produce energy, thereby helping pay for themselves (i.e. anaerobic digesters or covered waste storage ponds). Whatever design is decided upon, location is crucial. Contact your farmstead planner to discuss options. A thorough review of the options, area and pros and cons is priceless.

More information can be obtained from your farmstead planner and/or crop consultant. Often, we can make arrangements with other farms for a site visit to observe and discuss their manure treatment systems. Please consider this when making your decision.

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