



January 24, 2008

Enclosed you will find the results from our five regional research plots; Paxton, Clearwater, North Loup, Nebraska, Shannon, Illinois and Howe, Indiana. We want to thank our cooperators; we appreciate your willingness and energy in assisting us in our research.

We had a great turnout in August for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual field day. We want to thank all of you who attended and look forward to seeing you next year. We also want to thank our three guest speakers for their interesting and beneficial information. Twelve people correctly identified the Mystery Hybrid (N11830); and three winners were picked. (Natais) will receive 100 lbs. free seed. (Rich Kenny) will receive 200 lbs. free seed. (Eldon Dyck) will receive 500 lbs. free seed.

Early next year we will be sending you the results of our population research plot, dry land research plot, and microwave testing results.

We have found that it has become more difficult to develop a hybrid that will be acceptable for all growing regions and farming practices. Therefore, our approach of having a small replicated research plot at several locations should be beneficial to all of us.

Our regional plots have shown that there is a definite growing preference for these hybrids. N11850 did very well from Northern Illinois on east. N11649 had good consistent results in any of the popcorn belt areas. N1160 was the best in the fields of Western Nebraska where headline was used. N15820 responded with superior yields and excellent quality in areas where leaf disease and stalk rot were more evident.

In general we observed that the warmer than average August nights and the higher humidity during the day as well as night, led to more incidents of disease and fungal attacks. Unless we wish to move the popcorn belt to Wyoming and Canada, both foreign countries, we need to apply as a habitual event the application of Headline at 50% tassel and also look at subsequent application 3 to 4 weeks later. It was noted that growers that applied Headline once at 50% tassel yielded 500 to 1000 lbs. more per acre, than those who did not.

Regardless of which hybrid you plant this spring, we would like to share with you the following conclusions from the observations we made of various production practices. These observations were made from Indiana, through the northern Corn Belt, to eastern Colorado.

1. Plant between the first and tenth of May whenever possible; this will allow for better herbicide control.
2. Plant two inches deep for proper root development.
3. Keep the population around 28,000 plants per acre; don't be afraid of even a 24,000 stand.
4. Keep the total nitrogen (soil and applied) to 150lbs per acre, sulfur at 20lbs in the sulfate form. Check for zinc deficiencies.
5. Apply the fungicide Headline at pollination time, watch for fungi (wheat rust, etc.) reports in June and July, If these reports indicate a high infestation, as the last two years were, then consider applying Headline again the first week in August.
6. Be cognizant that the last half of August is not a high water demand period for popcorn.

In conclusion, feel free to contact us to discuss any of the above recommendations. WE are as interested in YOUR successful popcorn enterprise as YOU are. If you are not successful, we have nothing.

Sincerely,

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President

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