Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center

Horticulture and Crop Science
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January 17, 2006

Dear Seedsmen:

Your company is invited to participate in the 2006 Ohio Corn Performance Test. The program provides farmers, seed corn companies, and university personnel with information on the relative performance of corn hybrids grown under Ohio conditions. In addition to testing conventional corn hybrids, we would welcome an opportunity to evaluate experimental hybrids, new seed technologies, seed treatments, and specialty corns which you may be marketing or planning to market in Ohio. Details of the program, including test protocol, requirements for entry and publication information are on the attached pages.

In 2006 we are making changes to the Ohio Corn Performance Test based on survey responses and information we collected at our meeting with seed industry representatives in March 2005. We are discontinuing the Piketon test location in 2006. The three regional test locations and Coshocton will not change this year. In the future, we plan to replace Piketon with other sites and modify the geographic areas covered by a “region”. With these changes, our aim is to provide growers with a better assessment of hybrid performance across the major corn producing regions of Ohio. As always, your continued support and feedback are essential to the expansion of our program.

The Corn Silage evaluation established last year in cooperation with Michigan State University will continue this year. Silage test entry forms will be sent later this month. The past years results can be viewed on our web site: www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~perf

Please list your entries on the attached registration form and return with fee payment to Richard Minyo by March 7, 2006 to ensure acceptance of your entries. Send seed no later than March 21, 2006. If seed shipment is delayed for any reason (winter nurseries, etc.) please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to your participation in the Ohio Corn Performance Test in 2006. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information concerning entry in the corn testing program. I can be reached at 614-292-2373 (FAX: 614-292-7162; e-mail: thomison.1@osu.edu). Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Peter R. Thomison
Professor
Corn Cropping Systems

Enclosures

2006 OHIO CORN PERFORMANCE TEST
Plans and Guidelines

OBJECTIVE:
To provide an unbiased source of information on corn hybrids currently available to Ohio farmers. We welcome all seed companies marketing seed corn in Ohio to participate in these trials.

TEST SITE LOCATIONS:
The 2006 Ohio Corn Performance Test will be conducted in three regional tests containing three sites each and one specialty location. See attached Ohio map for the proposed location of each test. Regions were determined by general soil types and climatic differences. Each region may have high or moderate fertility and various tillage practices. The Coshocton location is in an area of high gray leaf spot incidence.

Regional Site Locations	Fertility	Tillage
Southwestern and West Central		
Fayette County	Moderate	Reduced Tillage
Clark County	High	Stale Seedbed
Darke County	Moderate	Stale Seedbed
Northwestern		
Van Wert County	High	Conventional
Wood County	High	Stale Seedbed
Wyandot County	Moderate	Reduced Tillage
North Central and Northeastern		
Crawford County	Moderate	Conventional
Wayne County	High	Reduced Tillage
Mahoning County	Moderate	No-Till
Single Site Test		
Coshocton County	Moderate	No-Till

METHOD OF SELECTING ENTRIES:
Producers of seed corn available to Ohio farmers may submit an unlimited number of entries in the Ohio Corn Performance Test. To increase the usefulness of this information we encourage the entry of hybrids for more than one year. Hybrids are tested at all locations within each region entered. We recommend **MEDIUM** flat or round seed sizes for optimum planting accuracy.

Experimental hybrids may be entered. Companies entering experimental hybrids will be notified of the hybrid performance before publication of the results and given the option to include the data in the publication. This decision must be made immediately to meet printing deadlines. Company representatives are responsible for the appropriate timely notification to the project manager of the commercial sales numbers assigned to experimental hybrids.

FEE SCHEDULE AND SEED REQUIREMENTS:
The entry fee is $250.00 per hybrid entry per region. The Coshocton entry fee is $100.00. Please return the entry form, fee, and seed (five pounds per entry per region, two pounds for Coshocton) as soon as possible to the address shown on the entry form. Deadline for entries is March 10, 2006 to ensure acceptance of entries. Seed should be sent no later than March 24, 2006. If seed shipment is delayed for any reason (winter nurseries, etc.) please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

SEED TREATMENTS AND VALUE-ADDED TRAITS:
Seed treatment information and value-added trait information will again be published in 2006. Please indicate any seed treatments and value-added traits on the back of the entry form in the provided spaces.

PLOT DESIGN:
Hybrids will be planted in three or four replications per location using a randomized complete block design. Hybrids will be split into early and full season maturity groups based on company provided relative maturity information. We reserve the option of placing a hybrid in the appropriate maturity test based on a hybrid's grain moisture and 50% silking data from the previous year's test. Each replication will consist of a four-row plot with the center two rows harvested. Plot rows will be 27.5 feet in length by 30 inches wide. Plots will not be thinned. A recommended seeds per acre is requested from the company for each hybrid entered. If not indicated on the entry form, the seed drop will be approximately 30,000 seeds per acre. We urge careful consideration of the desired planting rate.

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PRODUCTION PRACTICES:
Planting will be accomplished with a four-row air type planter equipped with variable rate drive. Plots at the high fertility sites will be fertilized to obtain optimum yield potential. Herbicides will be applied at all sites to control weed species present. A two row research combine will be utilized for harvest.

MEASUREMENTS AND RECORDS:
Notes and measurements will be taken on the following: yield, test weight, grain moisture, percent emergence, stalk lodging and final stand. Other data of value to farmers and/or seedsmen will be collected including grain quality and insect/ disease ratings when such pest injury becomes severe at a site.

PUBLICATION:
Final results will be published and available for public distribution as soon as the results are compiled. Results are published in booklet format by *Ohio's Country Journal* as "Ohio Corn, Soybean and Alfalfa Performance Trials." One, two and three year averages will be summarized for each region based on data from 2006, 2005 and 2004. Individual location results for 2006 and multi year averages for each site will also be included. Complete tables with single and multi year averages are available at our web site: www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~perf/. The testing program is subject to all university policies for establishing and conducting a fee testing program.

CORRESPONDENCE:
All correspondence pertaining to the Ohio Corn Performance Test should be sent to:

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