An important part of Pennsylvania’s corn production since 1965
Thanks to your membership and contributions, PCGA & NCGA were able represent Corn Growers’ interests in the following areas in 2019:

- Grain Bonding
- Trade
- Ethanol
- Transportation
- Sustainable Corn Production Methods
- Commodity Pricing Issues
- End Use Products
- Farm Bill
- Soil Health and Sustainability
Welcome to the PA Corn Grower’s Association’s 2019 Pennsylvania Five Acre Corn Club Report! The Contest is PA’s premier yield contest, providing valuable insight into the productivity and stewardship of Pennsylvania’s corn growers. What a year it has been—the top 3 winners in the state all averaged over 300 bushels! 5-acre corn contest participants are the best and brightest in the state. These farms are continuously improving production practices and adopting new technologies to produce higher yields with lower per unit inputs and lower environmental risks. Agricultural technology, advanced genetics, plant health pesticide products, soil health practices and 4R nutrient stewardship practices continue to drive the intensification of crop management on our participants’ farms. This contest raises up those efforts and showcases the fruits of that labor. Thank you to all the 2019 participants.

New to PCGA in 2019 was our Sustainable Corn Education Fund, sponsored by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). This partnership with EDF resulted in six members receiving reimbursement for attending the 2020 National No-Till Conference. EDF also sponsored our Precision Ag focused Annual Meeting, held at Lancaster Seed Sales on August 21. Thank you EDF for your continued support of our members!

PA Corn Growers Association is ever thankful for the work and dedication of our board of directors. This year saw many changes to PCGA, including new bylaws and increased outreach into the agricultural community. Thanks to our executive board — Elizabeth Hinkel, Matt Keller and Russell McLucas for the leadership they provide, and to Martin Krone, Andrew Kimmel, Jeff Sherman, Rich Crone, Dick Cole, Jay Stauffer, Greg Roth, Andrew Frankenfield and Jeff Graybill, for the service they provide to the organization.

This report, and contest, could not be possible without the many people dedicating countless hours behind the scene. A special thank you to Martin Krone for organizing and leading the contest this year, to Andrew Frankenfield and Jeff Graybill for their tireless support, and finally to all our harvest supervisors for the time they volunteer to make this event a reality!

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Rosenbaum
Executive Director
Member Highlight—Karl Dirks, Wolgemuth Farview Farms

National Recognition for Nutrient Stewardship

“We adopt pretty quickly,” was Karl Dirk’s response when asked about the integration of technology, conservation, and nutrient stewardship on his farm at the 2020 National No-Tillage Conference in St. Louis, MO. Dirks was one of three farmers in the nation selected for the 2020 Responsible Nutrient Management Practitioners Award, an annual award program sponsored by AgroLiquid and No-Till Farmer. The program recognizes no-till farms that go above and beyond to responsibly implement applied fertility programs and nutrient management practices to increase environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Karl is the manager of Wolgemuth Farview Farms, a hog and grain operation in Mt. Joy, Lancaster County as well as the owner of Lancaster Seed Sales. The farm successfully raises high yielding crops while meeting the requirements of their CAFO permit and Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan. “I’m spending as much time making sure I’m not over-applying nutrients as I am making sure that I’m applying enough nutrients,” Karl stated, when asked how the farm balances production goals with environmental concerns. The farm uses a number of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices to achieve these goals including: regular soil testing and manure testing, continuous no-till, cover crops, split applications of nitrogen fertilizer, plant analysis, micronutrient fertility, variable rate seeding and precision planter attachments. In recent years Karl has used Climate Fieldview to “turn the whole farm into a test plot,” utilizing the precision ag platform to manage numerous strip trials.

Karl is no stranger to the PCGA 5-Acre Corn Contest—finishing 2nd in the state competition in each of the past two years.
Darren Grumbine—Lebanon
Variety: Dekalb DKC62-53
Planting Date: 4/19/19
Planting Rate: 38,000
Total Nitrogen Fertilizer: 150 lbs / A
Tillage Practice: No Till

Karl Dirks—Mt. Joy
Variety: Dekalb—DKC60-88
Planting Date: 4/30/19
Planting Rate: 38,000
Total Nitrogen Fertilizer: 300 lbs / A
Tillage Practice: No Till

Kristen Grumbine—Lebanon
Variety: Pioneer—P1847AML
Planting Date: 4/18/19
Planting Rate: 37,000
Total Nitrogen Fertilizer: 150 lbs / A
Tillage Practice: No Till
By the Numbers

*Trends, Facts and Figures about the 5-Acre Corn Club Contest*

**Average Corn Yield 1993-2019**

- PCGA average
- State Average
- Linear (PCGA average)
- Linear (State Average)

**Cultural Practice Adoption Rates**

- Cover Crop Prior to Contest Plot
- Early + Late Foliar Fungicides
- Late Season Foliar Fungicide
- Early Season Foliar Fungicide
- Split applications of nitrogen
- Pop-up + Row Fertilizer
- At Planting Row Fertilizer
- Pop-up Fertilizer
- Manure Applications

% of adoption among 2019 5-Acre Corn Club Participants
Northern Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raymond G Martin</td>
<td>Tioga</td>
<td>Pioneer P9188R</td>
<td>218.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Swartfager</td>
<td>Clarion</td>
<td>Local Seed Co</td>
<td>211.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson A Welles III</td>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>Growmark FS 5525</td>
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Did you know...
PCGA’s Membership Incentive Program provides one free bag of corn for each three-year membership?

Central Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl T Shaffer</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>Dekalb DKC62-08RIB</td>
<td>266.9</td>
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<td>Leslie Bowman</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
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<td>258.5</td>
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<td>Richard Crone</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>Channel 215-60TreRIB</td>
<td>256.4</td>
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<td>Leon C Wertz</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>Pioneer P1283AM</td>
<td>244.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Rice</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>Channel 207-27VT2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnell Weaver</td>
<td>Schuylkill</td>
<td>Seed Consultants</td>
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TOP PRODUCER

Central Region

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Producer Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl T Shaffer</td>
<td>Mifflinville</td>
<td>Dekalb DKC62-08RIB</td>
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# Southcentral Region

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<tr>
<td>Darren Grumbine</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Dekalb DKC62-53RIB</td>
<td>309.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Dirks</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Dekalb DKC60-88</td>
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<td>Kristen Grumbine</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Pioneer P1847AML</td>
<td>301.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Krall</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Pioneer P1415Q</td>
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<td>Glen S Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Elvin Reiff</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Huber H6663RCSS</td>
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<td>Michael Shearer</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Pioneer P1197AMXT</td>
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<td>Pat Buser</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>Pioneer P0843AM</td>
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<td>Brian Kreider</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Pioneer P1283AM</td>
<td>280.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Buser</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>Pioneer P1283AM</td>
<td>271.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Groff</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Hubner H4744RC2P</td>
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<td>Merle Stoltzfus</td>
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<td>Samuel Conley</td>
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<td>Pioneer P057AM</td>
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<td>Ethan Buser</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>Pioneer P1197AMXT</td>
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## Southeastern Region

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<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Brian Fulmer</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>Hubner H6663RCSS</td>
<td>265.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shane Fulmer</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>Hubner H6755RCSS</td>
<td>250.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Frederick</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>Growmark FS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Stewart</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>Dekalb</td>
<td>238.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Rook</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>Pioneer P1847</td>
<td>193.0</td>
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</table>

**TOP PRODUCER**

**Brian Fulmer**  
*Nazareth*  
265.4 bu / A

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## Western Region

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Producer Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (bu/A)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Dorazio</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Pioneer P1197</td>
<td>290.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Reskovac</td>
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<td>Richard Burd</td>
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<td>Pioneer P1197</td>
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<td>Jeremy Dorazio</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Pioneer P0242AMXT</td>
<td>201.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP PRODUCER**

**Robert Dorazio**  
*Lake Lynn*  
290.4 bu / A

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Congratulations to all Pennsylvania participants in NCGA's *National Corn Yield Contest*. For a list of all participants, visit: [www.ncga.com/for-farmers/national-corn-yield-contest](http://www.ncga.com/for-farmers/national-corn-yield-contest)
PCGA Thanks 2019
Harvest Supervisors for their Time and Efforts!

- Alyssa Collins, PSU Extension Specialist
- Anna Busch, PSU Extension Educator
- Brittany Clark, PSU Extension Educator
- Casey Guindon, PSU Extension Educator
- Del Voight, PSU Extension Educator
- Duane Miller, PSU Extension Educator
- Heidi Reed, PSU Extension Educator
- Hope Reed, PSU Extension Educator
- Jeff Graybill, PSU Extension Educator
- Justin Brackenrich, PSU Extension Educator
- Liz Bosack, PSU Extension Educator
- Michael Fournier, PSU Extension Educator, retired
- Nick Hebrock, Crop Consultant
- William F Gallagher, PSU Extension Educator, retired
Connect with us!

Eric Rosenbaum, Executive Director
(484) 788-7263
pcga@pacorngrowers.org
www.pacorngrowers.org
FACTS AND FIGURES AROUND THE 2019 CONTEST

Eric Rosenbaum—Executive Director, PA Corn Growers Association

This year 34 members competed in the 5-acre corn club contest and averaged 255.5 bushels per acre with a final stand of 32,630 plants per acre. The top yield this year was 309.8 bushels per acre. Yields were up significantly from last year’s average of 291.6 bushels per acre but final populations were relatively unchanged (32,433). Our yields this year were likely influenced by adequate soil moisture and increased solar radiation this summer.

In our cultural practices summary, the average planting depth was 2.0 inches deep with an average seed drop of 34,233 seeds per acre. Most fields in the club followed soybeans (61%), while 21% followed corn. 79% of the contest plots were planted using no-till and 76% of the fields were sidedressed with N that averaged 120 pounds N per acre. Starter fertilizers were used by all club members: 20 of the 31 used a pop-up program that varied from 2 to 6 gallons per acre, 14 used a higher rate row fertilizer program, and 9 used a combination of pop-up and higher rate row fertilizer, which was mostly liquid N based fertilizer. 35% of contest plots were planted into a cover crop. About 24% of the members used an in-row insecticide this year, a reduction from the 45% of participants using in-row insecticide in 2018. 88% of the corn club fields received a post-emergent herbicide. The trend of post emergence tank-mixes is increasing, with 50% of plots received two or more herbicide modes of action in the post application. Reported disease pressure was much lighter than 2018 and 50% of the club fields were treated with a fungicide, either at V6, pre-tassel, green silk, brown silk. Almost all fungicide products applied contained at least two fungicide modes of action.

Congratulations again to all the producers who participated in this year's program. Many thanks are due to the extension educators and crop consultants who helped collect the yield and cultural information for the club. Also, a special thanks is due to Martin Krone and Jeff Graybill for their diligent work in pulling this report together.