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NATIONAL CORN YIELD CONTEST



2020

Best in the Field
Winner's Guide



NATIONAL
CORN GROWERS
ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President

In hindsight, 2020 looked much different for all of us.

For farmers, the year brought unique challenges, true tests of their determination, grit and ability to persevere. As always, America's farm families did not waiver in optimism or commitment. That dedication, along with eyes holding the future steadily in their gaze, allowed farmers to find abundance, opportunity and success in an unforeseeable time.

Farmers relied upon an innovative nature and ability to adapt practices while adopting technologies. They did more with less. They planned for the future, focusing on both environmental and economic sustainability. Drawing from knowledge rooted in tradition while exploring ever-evolving choices, farmers used best of both old and new to provide food, feed and fiber for the world.

National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) saw the dedication of farmers firsthand. A record 30 named hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast and eastern seaboard; farmers kept going. An aggressive wildfire season ravaged parts of the western

United States; farmers kept going. A derecho devastated cropland from Iowa to New Jersey; farmers kept going. A global pandemic impacted Americans in rural and urban areas alike; farmers kept going.

The National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC) kept going, too. 2020's contest saw 7,844 entries. Despite the stressors they faced this season, farmers submitted 2,510 harvest results, similar to the rate of completion seen in a normal year.

Entrants excelled. Don Stall of Michigan hit the impressive yield of 476.9052 bushels per acre. While there is no overall contest winner, yields from first, second and third place farmers overall production categories topped out at 274.2037 bushels per acre, almost a full hundred bushels-per-acre more than the national average of 175.

Contest participation plays an important role in building the industry-wide pool of knowledge. It highlights adaptation, technology and innovation that help farmers achieve true excellence and inspire their peers.

To every entrant, both personally and on behalf of the entire association, thank you. By accepting this challenge in a challenging year, you contributed valuable data that will help all face challenges still to come. Whether entrants set a national record or strive to beat their personal

best, every entrant contributes to the body of agronomic research and provides the valuable information that helps farmers feed and fuel the world while preserving natural resources for Americans in rural and urban areas alike.

Especially in 2020, volunteer supervisors able to and comfortable with making yield checks maintained the integrity of the contest in a safe, responsible manner. Every year, supervisors generously give their time and energy to ensure the integrity of this endeavor. The service provided by these crop advisers, extension personnel, government employees and financial professionals to our industry has enormous value.

Seed companies remained steadfast in their support of the National Corn Yield Contest. These companies value how the caliber of entrants ensures real competition and thus provide a platform to showcase their offerings. The seed representatives who help growers achieve their contest goals do a service to the industry and America's farm families.

I offer special thanks to our generous contest sponsors for 2020: **BASF Corporation, John Deere** and **Pioneer**. The commitment demonstrated by these companies, year after year, shows their dedication to building a brighter future for farmers. Their loyalty and steadfast support of farmers deserves recognition and our gratitude.

We applaud the 2020 NCYC winners. This guide shares the stories of these men and women. Through these stories of incredible accomplishment, you can study the winning strategies and maybe even pick up a few ideas to try.

Hindsight may be 20/20, but the future holds opportunities completely unforeseeable today. While some things are beyond the horizon, NCGA believes in our nation's corn farmers. We believe in farmer-led,

grassroots efforts that draw on our collective strength to build something far greater than we each could on our own. We believe every time a farmer writes one letter to their Congressional representative or makes one call to their office, every time they help consumers learn, every time they collaborate to amplify their voices, it makes a real, concrete difference. Together, we can build on those things we see in hindsight to create the tomorrow we want to see for our families and a future that remains vibrant in ways we can envision by working together. ●



John Linder, President
National Corn Growers Association



ABOUT THE COVER
"Solid Foundation"
2019 Fields of Corn
Grand Prize Winner
Photo by Harlen Persinger
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Top Tips For Champion Yields

Corn grower contestants transfer knowledge from contest fields to the whole farm.

Bob Sproat's father grew up in Iowa, so the desire to grow corn must have been passed down through the family DNA. "There is just something about the way those corn plants grow so big and tall, dark green," Sproat says. "It just makes me want to be a corn grower."

The problem is Sproat's farm is in northern California, an area known more for growing rice and walnuts than corn. The nearest



Bob Sproat

neighbor that grows corn for grain lives about 20 miles away. So, when Sproat found out that the Commodity Classic was coming to Phoenix in 2015, he made the trip so he could rub shoulders with National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) National Corn Yield Contest winners.

"I attended all the sessions on high-yield corn," he recalls. "I was on a mission to seek knowledge about growing the best crop that I could possibly raise."

Those contacts, plus networking with company representatives on the trade-show floor, helped Sproat find the path to success on his Live Oak, California farm. "I got to the 250-bushel per acre level and assumed that growing 300-bushel corn should be as easy as falling off a tractor," he says.

Instead, it was harder than pulling teeth for Dr. Sproat, a retired dentist who practiced in nearby Yuba City. "I realized I had not even crawled onto the tractor yet," he says. But he persisted, and his efforts were rewarded when the 2020 and 2019 yield contest winners were announced. His 315.9309- and

324.8316-bushel efforts were the state's top yield in the strip-till, minimum-till, mulch-till, ridge-till irrigated class, respectively.

The key to breaking his 300-bushel barrier? "Uniform emergence, without a doubt," Sproat says. "That goes back to seedbed preparation—you can't get good emergence without good seedbed preparation. I like to see the entire crop emerge in 12 hours."

Breaking Barriers

For growers from coast to coast—as well as those in the heart of the Corn Belt—participating in the NCGA National Corn Yield Contest helps identify limiting factors that put a ceiling on yield. Once those factors are identified, growers can then put practices into place to boost yields on their broad-acre production, if economics allow.

On the opposite coast, 3,000 miles from Sproat's contest fields, veteran corn yield contest winner David Hula agrees that uniform emergence has been a big key to his family's success, as well.

"Looking back, whenever we have had bigger yields is



David Hula

when we have had that uniform emergence,” says Hula, who is the current world-record corn grower (616 bushels per acre). “We first talked about getting a picket-fence stand. We’ve checked that box, but now we want all those spikelets to break out of the ground at the same time.”

Hula represents the third generation on Renwood Farms, the family operation headquartered near Charles City, Virginia. Each generation has addressed—and overcome—yield barriers. “Granddad was one of the first in this area to grow 100-bushel corn,

and my father broke through the 200-bushel mark,” he says. “We’ve been able to surround ourselves with good people who help us identify what’s holding us back, and then we try to push through the next yield barrier.”

But growing corn is more than breaking yield barriers for Hula. Before he came back to Renwood Farms, he spent three years with the Virginia Department of Soil and Water Conservation as a nutrient-management specialist. “I learned a lot as I worked with good growers who were working to protect the Chesapeake Bay through more efficient use of fertilizer,” Hula says. “We’ve taken some of the things we’ve learned about nutrient application from our high-yield environments and now use them on all our acres. For example, we put starter fertilizer on both sides of the row to get the corn off to a better start.”

Matching up nutrients with the demand of plants involves a lot of work on the most basic aspects of growing corn. “We’re now soil testing more intensively, using one-acre grids,” Hula says. “And we are relying more on tissue testing of the growing crop to guide us in supplying the right nutrients.”

R&D Effort

In Winona County, Minnesota, Mike Unruh is just getting started on his farming career. “The 2020 growing season was the third year that I rented land on my own, and my first year to enter the yield contest,” he says.

“I look at this as a way to push myself to try something on a contest field that I wouldn’t be inclined to try on a larger scale,” he continues. “I do a lot of online research to see how growers are pushing yields further. The yield contest gives me a reason to go out of my comfort zone to try a new approach.”

For Unruh, a vision of the future includes improved soil health through increased use of cover crops. He’s trying to find innovative ways to get cover crops seeded in the tight window offered in the northern part of the Corn Belt.

But he also has identified a yield barrier to break. “I would like to get above 300 bushels per acre,” he says. “We are depending on the weather, since this is all non-irrigated land. But that’s definitely a number I would like to break.”

Matthew Swanson, a corn grower from LaHarpe, Illinois, credits the yield contest for helping him to fine-tune management and ▶

Keeping the corn plant green for as long as possible during the growing season is just one factor NCGA corn yield contest growers focus on to produce top yields.



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production practices to raise yields across all of his corn acres.

“We have translated a lot of things from our contest fields to our regular acres,” he says. “I think the biggest thing about participating in the yield contest is that it puts you in the mindset of doing on-farm trials. You learn what hybrids and what populations work in your situation.”

One concept that translated into broader acreage production: spoon-feeding the plant,



Matthew Swanson

providing nutrients it needs on a “just in time” schedule, based in large part on in-season tissue tests. He also uses an intensive starter fertilizer program, applying nutrients in-furrow as well as in a 2x2 placement.

“You cannot overstate the importance of getting a crop off to a good start, letting the corn think it is in a high-yield environment at the early stages,” he says. “We farm some ground that is the flat, black soil that people associate with Illinois, but we also farm some timber ground that is more marginal. And that marginal land responds tremendously to high-yield management.”

Middletown, Maryland, corn grower Drew Haines agrees that the early environment is a key to growing high-yield corn. His efforts to bring that management to non-contest fields has helped raise the farm’s overall yield average.

“By the time corn is 6 inches tall, it has already determined what size the ear will be,” points out Haines, who has passed the 400-bushel mark on his no-till, non-irrigated contest fields. “We have learned to get some nutrients on that corn early. We’re doing that by means of a foliar application on all of our corn acres when it is 6 inches tall or less. That has been a big plus.”

Haines also points out that the contest has taught him that there are times to slow down. “When you are planting corn, you have one chance to get it right,” he says. “We try not to be in a rush, to make sure we have a window of weather that gives the crop a chance to emerge uniformly. We try to keep that thought in mind for all our acres.”

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic angle further complicates the transfer of ideas from contest field to broad-acre production. “Here in Missouri, we deal with a wide range of soil



Drew Haines



Ben Price

types,” points out Ben Price, who broke the 300-bushel barrier with a first-place finish in the 2019 yield contest under the conventional non-irrigated category.

“We also face a lot of weather extremes that can impact yield in a hurry,” he continues. “It’s not an easy process to figure out what inputs are going to work from a profit standpoint.”

Like his fellow corn growers, Price agrees that getting off to a uniform start is critical. However, he also points out that a good finish to the season, when kernels are adding test weight, can impact final yield as well. That’s one reason that fungicide applications are a routine input across all corn acres on the family farm.

“Most people expect fungicide applications to pay in a wet year, but we find that they help plants stay green and hang on as they wait for rain in a dry year,” Price says. “We have seen enough positive results from fungicides that we put them in the budget each year.”

Even at 78 years of age, California corn grower Bob Sproat continues to be driven by the challenge of using science to methodically find and address yield limitations. “I’m shooting

for 400-bushel corn,” he says. “I don’t see why I can’t make it. I need to tweak something—probably a combination of soil biology and fertility—but my goal is to find that limiting factor. And then go for the 400 mark.” ///



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Good soil health provides the foundation for uniform corn emergence and strong stands.

Battle To Boost Demand

NCGA’s Market Recovery Plan develops tactics to trim corn carryover.

When COVID-19 dealt a blow to corn demand in early 2020, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) decided to battle back. The skirmish is taking shape as the Market Recovery Plan, a five-year strategic marketing initiative honed through a recent war-gaming session.

“COVID-19 caused a lot of harm to the corn industry on many levels,” says NCGA’s Communications Vice President Neil Caskey. Fewer cars on the road resulted in reduced demand for ethanol, and disruptions in protein markets rippled across the market for animal feed. “We have hired Aimpoint Research to lead us through the process of developing a market plan to address these issues,” Caskey adds.

The leaders of Aimpoint Research have a military background, so they called on that experience to help focus and sharpen these efforts to boost corn demand by hosting a “war-gaming” exercise in the fall of 2020. This simulation helped to define potential cause-and-effect of various efforts to find opportunities for marketing corn, and it pointed out pathways to help overcome obstacles to boosting demand.

The NCGA is working with all its value-chain partners, from representatives of animal agriculture to the ethanol industry and trading partners, to identify opportunities. “It is hard to create demand for any product, even in the best of times, but we do see pockets of opportunities,” Caskey says. “We like what we’re seeing with E15. We think there are some ways that we can accelerate growth there.

“There are emerging opportunities for alternative uses such as bioplastics,” he continues. “It may take a little longer than the five-year window we’re working with for this project, but we know that sustainability is important for consumers. We think opportunity will grow for things like bioplastics that will replace petroleum-based products.”

Internationally, Caskey says the NCGA team sees potential to sell corn in all its forms, particularly in developing markets of Southeast Asia.

The Market Recovery Plan will be rolled out in 2021. Corn growers can keep up with the initiative by visiting www.ncga.com/growth for the latest information.

First Place



SAM SANTINI Stewartville, NJ

381.5595 bu./acre
DEKALB DKC70-27RIB
Population: 37,000
Harvester: **John Deere S770**

SUPERVISORS

Hank Bignell: Warren County Extension Agent, Rutgers Co-op Extension
Robert Mickel: Retired Extension Agent, Rutgers Co-op Extension

Sam Santini is convinced 30-inch rows are the way to go to maximize corn yields, at least for now. The perennial national yield contest winner tried 15-inch rows for about five years, but was unable to surpass 300 bushels per acre or get into the top three placings of the contest. "I was all in on 15-inch rows," says Santini. "I still believe they are the way to go, but we are not just there yet. Sunlight means a lot to corn yield, and the 30-inch rows prove it."

The New Jersey grower chose a 120-day DEKALB DKC70-27RIB stacked trait hybrid based on the advice of his seed rep. "I hadn't planted a DEKALB hybrid in a while, but I like long-season hybrids, so I decided to give it a try. We see greater yield potential from longer season corn."

Santini has planted corn on corn for 35 years without experiencing any yield drag or other agronomic problems. He has experimented with many plant populations as part of his contest entries and says 37,000 seeds/acre gives him the best opportunity to maximize yield. An Acceleron seed treatment provides insurance against early season stresses.

He was nervous as the 2020 season got underway. "In early June, we were one week from disaster. It had been too dry," he says. "Then, all of a sudden, it warmed up and we got rain and that is what you need to make corn. I was shocked with our final yield."

Santini confesses he is "not fussy" when it comes to the crop's fertility program. He spreads 2.5 tons of poultry manure before planting. That's followed at planting with InVigoron Z M2 (mixture of N-P-K) and Periscope in-furrow. He side-dresses nitrogen when corn reaches 15-18 inches. Total nutrients applied was 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre and 100 pounds each of phosphorus and potassium.

He also makes three fungicide applications in-season, noting he sees crop response with each of them. Santini believes using fungicides is good for both corn plant health and to stave off disease. He chooses a mix of products and starts application when the corn is about two feet tall. He makes a second treatment prior to tassel and makes an aerial application at brown silk.

"We are always trying new ideas," he says. "We are open to anything our adviser recommends."

Key To High Yields

- Confirm accuracy of the planter's seed spacing. Run the planter at two miles per hour.
- Manage the planter for seed depth. Depth is critical to get corn off to the right start.
- Stick with 30-inch rows and choose a long-season corn hybrid.

Second Place

LANDY THOMAS
Cades, SC
370.8320 bu./acre
Pioneer P1847VYHR
Population: 34,000
Harvester: **John Deere S670**

Landy Thomas, as part of Gause Farms, returns to the winner's circle in 2020. With a near-ideal growing season, the high-achieving **Pioneer P1847VYHR** hybrid thrived to produce a second-place showing in this class. "We have planted this full-season hybrid in the past and had good luck with it," says Thomas. "We got timely rains throughout the season, and that really helped us reach top yield potential."

Thomas generally plants a 114- to 120-day hybrid and finds the 34,000 plant population allows the corn to flourish in dryland production. Any higher population results in a lower yield.

Grid soil sampling provides the answers he needs to manage his fertility program. Using variable rate technology, nutrients were applied at planting in a 2x2 placement. Thomas says this shows the best yield response on the South Carolina soils. A broadcast dry nitrogen application followed. In total, Thomas applied 350 pounds of nitrogen, 250 pounds of phosphorus and 200 pounds of potassium.

"With our soil pH at about 6.2-6.3, we see better uptake of both phosphorus and potassium," he says. "To help manage plant health, we went with a fungicide seed treatment and came back with **Headline** at tassel. When the corn can focus its resources on filling ears, yields go up."

SUPERVISORS

Richard Moore: Crop Adjustor, Diversified Crop Insurance

Carey Middleton: Ag Loan Officer, ArborOne ACA

Third Place

ROBERT SANTINI, JR.
Phillipsburg, NJ
365.6086 bu./acre
Pioneer P1197
Population: 40,000
Harvester: **John Deere 9670 STS**

Robert Santini, Jr., decided to stick with what works in 2020. **Pioneer P1197** is a 111-day conventional corn hybrid that has been a strong performer for him for years. "**P1197** is consistent and responds to good ground and a good program," says Santini.

He points out the growing season started out a little slow. "Once the corn crop was planted, we really had no weather problems. We received timely rains all season and that really pushed the hybrid to perform."

Santini's fertility program consists of applying three tons of poultry manure in the fall and spring. "We have been using local manure for a long time. It really builds the soil profile and offers corn the nutrients it needs to do well," he says. Three additional fertilizer applications included ESN at plow down before planting and two nutrient mixes, one applied by a sprayer after planting and the second right at layby. In all, Santini applied 300 units of nitrogen and 100 each of phosphorus and potassium.

Santini also makes four fungicide applications to extend plant health. The first is applied on the seed. Once corn is knee high, he makes three more applications every two weeks with Miravis Neo. He also applied Acuron herbicide.

"There is no one key ingredient to achieving high yields," says Santini. "It is a combination of things that each contribute to getting the most out of a hybrid."

SUPERVISORS

Hank Bignell: Warren County Extension Agent, Rutgers Co-op Extension

Robert Mickel: Retired Extension Agent, Rutgers Co-op Extension

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
A: CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED										
ALABAMA										
Jackson Henderson Madison, AL	313.9462	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	30400	–	Cinch ATZ Lite	–	320/60/80	John Deere 1795 John Deere S690
Janson Patterson Meridianville, AL	299.2565	AgriGold A6659 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	–	35000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1790 CCS Case IH 8240
Gregory Key Arab, AL	200.6294	Great Heart Seed HT-7486	VT2PRIB	Cruiser 250	28500	–	–	–	150/60/80	Great Plains YP-625A John Deere 9410
CALIFORNIA										
Aaron J Beaver Isleton, CA	270.5013	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	35000	–	–	–	300/50/80	White 8700 John Deere 9500
COLORADO										
Harry Brinkema Holyoke, CO	107.1428	Pioneer P0339AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser +Poncho 250	16000	–	Halex GT	–	70/40/30	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S780
CONNECTICUT										
Jim Logue Woodbury, CT	265.4690	Channel 210-79STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	32800	–	Atrazine, Halex Roundup	–	275/120/200	Kinze 3600 Case IH 2388
Michael Logue Woodbury, CT	239.6402	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	–	32000	Baythroid	Armezon Pro Atrazine, Glyphosate Verdict	Headline AMP	200/70/120	Kinze 3500 Case IH 2388
DELAWARE										
Bill Alfree Middletown, DE	281.4622	DEKALB DKC64-87RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33400	–	Atrazine, Leadoff Roundup, Roundup PowerMax	–	140/20/80	Kinze 3660 John Deere S670
FLORIDA										
Sam Jones Jasper, FL	218.6565	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	27410	–	–	–	2200/50/200	Monosem Twin Row Case IH 1660
GEORGIA										
Wallace Anderson Ellijay, GA	233.8936	Pioneer P1870AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	37000	–	–	–	400/250/415	John Deere 7000 Conservation John Deere 4420
Josh McElvy Whigham, GA	210.3531	Pioneer P1662YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	PPST 250	26000	–	AAtrax 4L Lumax, Verdict	–	150/90/150	John Deere 1700 MaxEmergePlus John Deere S680
Jackson Courson Baxley, GA	119.9950	Dyna-Gro D54VC14	VT2P	–	29000	–	Atrazine Halex GT	–	150/0/150	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum Case IH 7120
KANSAS										
Jason Taylor White Cloud, KS	293.3221	Taylor Seed Farms 8824	VT2Pro RIB	Cruiser MAX	33000	–	Armezon Pro	–	270/75/50	John Deere 1775NT Case IH 7240
Brad Taylor White Cloud, KS	290.6637	Taylor Seed Farms 8013	VT2ProRibDG	Cruiser MAX	33000	Counter 20 G	Atrazine 90 DF Roundup PowerMax	Approch Prima	270/75/50	John Deere 1775NT Case IH 7240
Alex Dunn De Kalb, MO	273.3735	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	ELt250	31000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 7200 Conservation John Deere 6620
KENTUCKY										
David Sparks Owensboro, KY	309.3160	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	31000	–	–	–	200/100/200	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 790
Darrell Hagan Whitesville, KY	297.7609	Croplan Seed CP5370VT2P RIB	VT2P RIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	31000	–	Harness Xtra Hornet	–	200/100/200	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Claas Lexion 760
John & Mark Mitchell Clay, KY	278.3987	DEKALB DKC65-99RIB	Trecepta Rib	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1770 Front-Fold Flex John Deere S780

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A: CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED										
LOUISIANA										
Natalie Kneipp Tallulah, LA	284.7631	Pioneer P1366VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Cruiser	34300	–	–	–	200/50/60	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S780
Ben Howington Oak Grove, LA	251.0279	Pioneer P1870R	RR2	–	32500	–	Verdict	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9670
MASSACHUSETTS										
Frederick Llewelyn Northfield, MA	230.5556	Channel 197-90STXRIB	SSRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	45000	–	Dicamba DMA Harness Xtra Roundup PowerMax	–	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum John Deere 9500
MARYLAND										
Brenda Walsh Hampstead, MD	265.0861	AgriGold A647-46 STX	STX	Poncho 500	32000	–	Lumax EZ	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum John Deere 9670 STS
Brad Rill Hampstead, MD	259.5376	Mid-Atlantic Seeds MA8128 VT2P	VT2P	Poncho 250	31000	–	Callisto+Roundup Harness Xtra	–	195/100/200	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S780
MAINE										
Ryan Crane Exeter, ME	224.9383	Channel 185-30V2PRIB	VT2PRIB	–	33000	–	Acuron	–	200/200/250	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S660
MICHIGAN										
Dick Suwyn Caledonia, MI	287.2089	Golden Harvest G07F23-3211	3211	Avicta	37800	–	–	–	290/50/180	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8240
Scott Bartz Dorr, MI	281.4852	Golden Harvest G07F23-3111	3111	–	36500	–	Armezon Pro, Atrazine Class Act NG, Interlock Roundup PowerMax	–	280/45/150	White 6200 John Deere 9610
Dale Suwyn Wayland, MI	279.8246	Golden Harvest G10D21-3330 E-Z	3330	Avicta	38000	–	Verdict	–	320/75/150	John Deere 7000 Case IH 8240
MISSISSIPPI										
Daniel Brooks Coldwater, MS	290.9446	AgriGold A6659 RR	RR	Poncho 500	39000	–	–	–	290/45/135	Great Plains YP-625A John Deere S670
Justin Hurt Senatobia, MS	280.4994	AgriGold A6711 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Poncho 500	38000	–	–	–	350/184/120	Monosem Twin Row John Deere S670
Scott Flowers Dublin, MS	237.9413	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	34000	–	Abundit Extra Atrazine 4L, Resicore	–	260/90/50	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus John Deere S770
NORTH CAROLINA										
Wesley Johnson Dobson, NC	265.4733	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	33500	–	–	–	227/12/3	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S770
Heath Cutrell Chesapeake, VA	260.5885	DEKALB DKC65-99RIB	Trecepta Rib	Poncho 1250	39500	–	–	–	0/0/0	Case IH 2140 Early Riser Case IH 8240
Talmadge Mathis Roaring River, NC	251.4531	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	30000	–	–	–	160/80/50	Kinze 3600 Gleaner S67
NORTH DAKOTA										
Frank Steger Wahpeton, ND	250.9009	Pioneer P9880AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser 250/Raxil	32000	–	Laudis RoundUp+Mad Dog Plus	–	230/70/120	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9770
Cara Myers Coffax, ND	245.4235	Pioneer P9772AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Amplify	34000	–	–	–	200/50/100	White 9824 Case IH 8240
Jason Richtsmeier Hunter, ND	218.5632	Pioneer P9301AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Resicore	32000	–	–	–	190/50/0	John Deere DB66 John Deere 9770 STS

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2020 NCGA CORN YIELD CONTEST NATIONAL WINNER RESULTS

RANK	WINNER	CITY, STATE	PIONEER® HYBRID/BRAND*	YIELD (BU/A)
CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED				
2	LANDY THOMAS	CADES, SC	P1847VYHR	370.83
3	ROBERT SANTINI	PHILLIPSBURG, NJ	P1197	365.60
NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED				
1	DAN GAUSE	SCRANTON, SC	P1847VYHR	387.09
2	CHRIS SANTINI	STEWARTSVILLE, NJ	P1464AML™	357.45
3	JUSTICE FAMILY FARMS	DANIELS, WV	P1197	355.86
NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED**				
3	AARON ADAM	RICHLAND, IA	P1563AM™	312.72
STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED				
1	JEFFREY BARLIEB	STEWARTSVILLE, NJ	P1197AMT™	358.74
NO-TILL IRRIGATED				
1	BLAKE JOHNSON	HOLDREGE, NE	P1138AML™	322.87
2	GRADY JOHNSON	HOLDREGE, NE	P1138AML™	317.35
STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED				
2	JOHN PANOWICZ	CAIRO, NE	P1828AM™	330.82
CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED				
1	DON STALL	CHARLOTTE, MI	P0720AM™	476.90
2	GEORGE ANDREW	EVANSVILLE, WI	P0720Q™	324.77
3	ASHTON PETERSON	BERTRAND, NE	P1563AML™	324.59



For the full list of winners, visit pioneer.com/NCGA2020.

*All Pioneer products are hybrids unless designated with AM1, AM, AMRW, AML, AMT, AMX, AMXT and Q, in which case they are brands. **Corn Belt States: IL, IN, IA, MN, MO, OH, WI
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Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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A: CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED

NEBRASKA

Bradley Zierott Murdock, NE	293.9663	Wyffels Hybrids W7888RIB	SS	Poncho 500	35500	–	Callisto, Durango DMA Volley ATZ Lite	–	275/164/69	Case IH 1255 Front-Fold Early Riser Case IH 7140
Joni Jaeger Winside, NE	288.3472	DEKALB DKC63-57RIB	VT2PRIB	poncho 500, commence for corn	32400	–	–	–	150/50/125	John Deere 1790 John Deere S670
Adam Heimes Saint Helena, NE	279.6499	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	–	–	–	250/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9770

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jack Letourneau Northfield, MA	234.0910	Channel 199-29STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	48000	–	–	–	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum John Deere 9500
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NEW JERSEY

Sam Santini Stewartsville, NJ	381.5595	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	37000	–	–	–	300/100/100	John Deere 1780 MaxEmerge Plus Drawn Narrow-Row John Deere S770
Robert Santini Phillipsburg, NJ	365.6086	Pioneer P1197	CONV	–	40000	–	–	–	250/100/100	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9670 STS
Kelly Truskowski Stewartsville, NJ	308.1079	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	Acceleron	36000	–	Atrazine, Resicore Roundup	–	250/250/250	John Deere 1770 Conservation Claas Lexion 570

NEW YORK

Henry Everman Dansville, NY	299.8039	FS InVISION FS 6202V	VT2P-RIB	Poncho 500	44000	–	Abundit, FulTime	–	300/75/200	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9770 STS
Tyler Curtin Cassville, NY	289.0819	LG Seeds LG5465VT2RIB	VT2RIB	–	35000	Cobalt Advanced Defcon 2.1G	Abundit Extra Cinch ATZ, Status	Headline AMP Trivapro	185/0/0	John Deere DB60 Case IH 7240
Ryan Swede Pavilion, NY	277.8311	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	35000	–	–	–	257/72/189	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680

OKLAHOMA

Gayla Ledbetter Okmulgee, OK	222.7226	AgriGold A6572 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Amplify D+Poncho 250	32000	–	–	–	220/100/100	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
Michael Killmer Weleetka, OK	220.8199	Dyna-Gro D56VC46RIB	VT2P-RIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	25025	–	–	–	225/82/90	John Deere 1760 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum Case IH 2388
Dakota Arthur Pauls Valley, OK	216.7699	Pioneer P1828AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser 500	24500	–	Resicore	Trivapro	120/46/60	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9600

PENNSYLVANIA

Brad Kiefer Bangor, PA	298.0828	DEKALB DKC64-34RIB	SSRIB	–	36000	–	Atrazine+Calisto Medal II AT	–	300/75/146	Kinze 3660 Claas Lexion 740
Robert Kiefer Bangor, PA	289.5858	DEKALB DKC62-52RIB	SSRIB	–	36000	–	–	–	350/76/107	Kinze 3660 Claas Lexion 760
Glen Krall Lebanon, PA	276.6569	Pioneer P1415Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	33000	–	Atrazine 4L Resicore	Approch Prima	150/0/200	Kinze 3500 Gleaner S68

SOUTH CAROLINA

Landy Thomas Cades, SC	370.8320	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	33500	–	–	–	350/250/200	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670
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Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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A: CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED

SOUTH DAKOTA

Brennen Bird Elk Point, SD	310.6924	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	—	36000	—	Callisto Corvus	Delaro	0/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
Harold Wipf Scotland, SD	273.7609	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	PPST 250	29000	Fastac	Atrazine Roundup	—	0/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670
Jason Kokes Tabor, SD	270.3816	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	—	35000	Force 3G	Dual II Magnum Halex GT	Quilt Xcel Trivapro	200/50/50	John Deere 1760NT Drawn Wing-Fold Rigid John Deere 9860 STS

TENNESSEE

Madison Reed Elora, TN	311.4109	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	—	37000	—	—	—	220/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S660
Kenneth Barnes Union City, TN	296.1711	DEKALB DKC65-99	Trecepta	Acceleron	35000	—	—	—	350/200/100	John Deere DB60 Case IH 7240
Brenda Tanner Union City, TN	279.1270	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Acceleron	34000	—	—	—	245/40/120	John Deere 1770NT Case IH 8240

TEXAS

Keith Kresta Wharton, TX	236.9343	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250+VOTIVO	24500	—	—	—	167/72/72	Case IH 1235 Stackbar Early Riser/Case IH 2388
Chet Zdunkewicz Needville, TX	235.1663	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Lumivia	25900	—	—	—	165/39/39	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670
Justin Hansen Lorena, TX	234.5431	Dyna-Gro D57VC51	VT2P	—	24500	—	Instigate	—	180/60/40	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S770

VIRGINIA

Grayson Kirby Mechanicsville, VA	262.4880	Axis 65D28	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	—	Abundit Extra Resicore	—	250/80/120	Kinze 3660 Case IH 7240
Ryan Horsley Virginia Beach, VA	233.5013	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	—	36000	—	Cinch ATZ Impact	—	300/150/200	John Deere 1795 John Deere S780

VERMONT

Theodore Grembowicz North Clarendon, VT	210.4412	DEKALB DKC45-66RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32100	—	Roundup PowerMax Headline AMP Status, Verdict	—	160/30/50	John Deere 1750 Drawn Conservation/Case IH 2388
Jason Bourdeau Sheldon, VT	200.0314	Pioneer P0075Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	37000	—	Halex GT	—	272/88/250	Kinze 3400 Case IH Axial-Flow 7120
Rene Bourdeau Swanton, VT	181.5553	Pioneer P7005AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	37000	—	Dicamba DMA, Harness Xtra Roundup PowerMax	—	272/88/250	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH Axial-Flow 7120

CONGRATS, DON STALL.

476.90 BU/A

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First Place



KEVIN KALB

Dubois, IN

385.4405 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC67-44RIB

Population: 46,000

Harvester: Case IH 8230

SUPERVISORS

Tim Robinette: Ag Loan Officer,
Old National Bank

Nick Stevens: Ag Loan Officer,
Old National Bank

Kevin Kalb keeps his winning streak alive this year with a yield topping 385 bu./acre. He has now earned a first-place award in one of the contest classes five years in a row. "I think I might finally be figuring out this whole contest thing," he quips.

On the weather front, Kalb found himself in unfamiliar territory early on. "Last year and the year before we had very wet and very cold conditions around planting time," he says. "But this year, it was extremely dry. Right after we planted (May 28), we had just three-tenths inches of rain over the next seven weeks. We were concerned about root development. We were thinking that we might have lost any chance of a decent yield."

Relief came in mid-July just as the corn started pollinating. "A big cold front swept through our area and gave us six inches of rain over a two-week period," he says. "It was a real game changer. After that, we had pretty normal weather through the rest of the season. The corn really responded, and we finished strong."

For this year's contest, Kalb planted DEKALB DKC67-44RIB, the same hybrid that delivered his contest wins the previous three years. "It's a real stud that has been consistent for us year in and year out," he says. "It fits in with our weather, our soils and our management. It yields well under a variety of conditions. It can take heat and wet feet, and it has plenty of stamina."

In his nutrient management program, Kalb started tissue sampling at 300 GDUs (Growing Degree Units). Based on the sampling results, he used the Y-Drops on a Hagie sprayer to apply varying amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients at V6, V8 and V10.

For disease control, he made an application of **Headline AMP** at V10, then followed up with an application of Veltyma at brown silk and another application three weeks later. "When we first started using fungicides, we'd just do two applications, the first at V5, the second at tassels. But we've found that we can get more coverage on the ear by doing more passes and starting later."

The later applications also help keep the plants healthy later into the season. "That adds test weights," says Kalb. "A lot of corn growers think their job is finished once the corn tassels. But if your goal is to get the best possible yield, you have to stick with it through the entire season and finish up strong."

Key To High Yields

- Consider weather, soils and management when choosing hybrids.
- Determine nutrient needs with tissue sampling.
- Keep plants healthier longer with fungicides.

Second Place

RHYLAN KALB

Dubois, IN

345.9045 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC67-44RIB

Population: 46,000

Harvester: Case IH 8230

SUPERVISORS

Tim Robinette: Ag Loan Officer, Old National Bank

Nick Stevens: Ag Loan Officer, Old National Bank

If the contest had a rookie of the year award, Rhylan Kalb would definitely be in the running for top honors. In just her first year of entering, the 16-year-old brought home a second-place award with a yield of just under 346 bu./acre.

"Being in the contest is a lot of fun," she says. "There's just so much to learn about growing corn. The people in the contest are great about sharing information. You hear about the things they're trying, and what is and isn't working for them. It gets you thinking about what you might want to try yourself."

To produce her award-winning entry, Kalb focused on the start of the season. Ahead of planting, she spent hours in the farm shop with her dad doing maintenance on the family's Case IH 2150 planter. "We want to make sure everything is working just right," she says. "We want to be sure that we'll get consistent depth and good seed spacing so we have a uniform stand. You can't get behind at the start of the season and expect to see a high yield at the end."

For a contest hybrid, Kalb planted DEKALB DKC67-44RIB. "There are a lot of great new varieties coming along every year," she says. "But this one keeps doing well for us year after year. When something works, you stick with it."

Third Place

TROY UPHOFF

Findlay, IL

323.7983 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC63-57RIB

Population: 36,000

Harvester: John Deere S670

SUPERVISOR

Ted Huber: Agronomist,
ProAg Consultants

When Troy Uphoff learned his contest entry of nearly 324 bu./acre had earned third-place honors in this class, he was "out and out tickled." Uphoff immediately thought of all the people who had played a role. "It was a team effort," he says. "I had so much support from employees, family, friends, reps from major ag businesses and others. They're the ones who really deserve the credit."

Growing season weather was a mixed bag. A rain storm in early May (eight inches in 48 hours) delayed planting until May 28. Through June and July, conditions turned favorable with timely rains and "nearly ideal" temperatures.

August brought heat and worry. "We had a lot of days with highs over 92 degrees, and the corn in some places started to dry up," he says. "But we also had three, half-inch rains. After we got those, we started thinking this crop could be something special."

Uphoff used the contest to try new practices and technologies on limited acres. These included making multiple foliar feedings at crucial points in the growing season, doing a second application of Delaro fungicide and planting a newly-released DEKALB DKC63-57RIB hybrid. "For me, the contest isn't about producing a high yield on one plot in a single year," he says. "It's about assessing innovations that can bring higher yields to all fields in the future."

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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B: CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED*

IOWA

Chris Lindner Keokuk, IA	305.8413	Beck's Hybrids 6622AM	AM	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	36500	-	-	-	215/140/300	White 9824 John Deere S680
Ralph Trumm Cascade, IA	301.9615	LG Seeds Lg5525VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	39000	-	-	-	285/75/180	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
George Beardmore Dorchester, IA	300.3938	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Lumivia	36000	-	Cinch ATZ	-	30/0/0	Kinze 3600 John Deere S660

ILLINOIS

Troy Uphoff Findlay, IL	323.7983	DEKALB DKC63-57RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	36000	-	2,4-D+Atrazine Halex GT	Trivapro	240/300/300	Kinze 3600 John Deere S670
Lynn Weitekamp Farmersville, IL	320.5230	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	36000	-	-	-	200/200/200	John Deere 1770 John Deere S670
Jerry & Keith Reinhart Sadorus, IL	313.3849	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	-	34500	-	-	-	205/164/92	John Deere 1775NT John Deere 680

INDIANA

Kevin Kalb Dubois, IN	385.4405	DEKALB DKC67-44RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron	42000	-	Callisto+Roundup Harness Xtra	-	220/0/0	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8230
Rhylan Kalb Dubois, IN	345.9045	DEKALB DKC67-44RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron	42000	-	Cinch ATZ Gramoxone Impact, Rifle	Approch Prima	220/0/0	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8230
Sam Mehringer Loogootee, IN	314.9761	DEKALB DKC62-00RIB	White-VT3PRIB	Accelaron	35500	-	-	-	350/150/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670

MINNESOTA

Roger Volz Minnesota Lake, MN	313.8995	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	35000	-	-	-	180/150/150	Case IH 1250 Case IH Axial-Flow 8120
Justin Remus New Ulm, MN	313.5189	Beck's Hybrids 6049VT2P	VT2P	Escalate	36000	-	Lexar, Princep 4L Roundup PowerMax	-	240/180/100	White 8200 Horizontal Wing Fold/Claas Lexion 480
Kyle Remus Sleepy Eye, MN	311.9683	Beck's Hybrids 5765AM™	AM	Escalate	32000	-	-	-	240/180/100	White 8222 Flex Forward-Fold Claas Lexion 480

MISSOURI

Greg Cooper HALE, MO	321.9985	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	31000	-	-	-	0/0/0	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere S770
Miles Smith Fairfax, MO	317.7864	Wyffels Hybrids W7876RIB	VT2P	Accelaron +Poncho 250	34000	-	-	-	200/29/79	John Deere 1760 Drawn Wing- Fold Flex/John Deere 9570 STS
Randy Price Chillicothe, MO	317.2802	AgriGold A6579 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	34000	-	AAtrex 4L Degree Xtra	-	275/0/0	Kinze 3600 Claas Lexion 740

OHIO

Cory Atley Cedarville, OH	320.2415	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	39650	-	Cadence Mad Dog	-	295/65/90	John Deere DB60 Fendt 9T
Carl Atley Xenia, OH	305.5379	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	40370	-	Atrazine Halex	-	285/65/88	John Deere DB60 Fendt 9T
Jon Everett Conover, OH	284.7744	DEKALB DKC64-87RIB	SSRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	36000	-	Acuron Roundup PowerMax	Stratego YLD	220/150/200	John Deere 1775 Flex John Deere S780

WISCONSIN

Tim Appell Shullsburg, WI	318.4729	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron	36000	-	-	-	200/90/120	Kinze 4900 Case IH 8240
Ron Digman Mount Hope, WI	317.1434	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	35500	-	Harness, Lumax EZ Roundup PowerMax	-	100/0/220	John Deere 7200 Case IH 2388
Greg Rickert Eldorado, WI	304.9798	Pioneer P7202AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	36500	Counter 20 G	Atrazine 90 DF Impact	Approch Prima	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus /John Deere 9560

First Place



DANIEL GAUSE, SR.

Scranton, SC

387.0916 bu./acre

Pioneer P1847VYHR

Population: 34,000

Harvester: **John Deere S670**

SUPERVISORS

Richard Moore: Crop Insurance Agent, Diversified Crop Insurance

Carey Middleton: Ag Loan Officer, ArborOne ACA

Dan Gause doesn't see the need to try too many new ideas with his corn crop, as long as the current ones perform well. As the 2020 winner in the no-till, non-irrigated class, that seems to be the case. He's posted top national wins in the contest since 2010.

"We rely on our crop adviser to help us make decisions, and I think that is one of the best things any farmer can do to achieve top corn yields," says Gause. "There's no need to switch it up."

He also was fortunate this year to have Mother Nature on his side. Gause points out the growing season saw no dry spells. Rain arrived just at the right times, almost as precise as if he had been irrigating. "The rainfall and the Pioneer hybrid we used made for a good ear of corn," he adds.

Gause planted **Pioneer P1847VYHR**, a 118-day hybrid known for early silking, excellent grain quality and a high test weight, especially in above-average yield environments like his contest field. He has planted the hybrid in the past and was confident in its performance.

"We usually choose a 114- to 120-day hybrid," he says. "We went with 34,000 on population in 30-inch rows following soybeans. We have tried to push that higher in the past, but have not seen any yield benefit."

A strong proponent of grid soil sampling, Gause uses the results to variable rate apply

nutrients. He went with three applications this season, including at planting and a 2x2 nitrogen application. He came back with an over-the-top broadcast dry nitrogen application. For the season, Gause applied 350 pounds of nitrogen, 200 pounds of phosphorus and 150 pounds of potassium.

"We like to keep our soil pH in the 6.2-6.3 range, which is just right for nutrients to do their job. We see better uptake of both phosphorus and potassium at that range," he says.

Gause relied on a fungicide seed treatment and sprayed **Headline** to help manage plant health.

"We have hardpan here, so to manage that we need to subsoil till corn ground every year," he says. "Subsoiling loosens the soil and provides for better germination and emergence."

Key To High Yields

- Choose a high-yielding hybrid that complements your soils and location.
- Choose the right population for your field. Don't push dryland populations too high.
- Find a crop adviser who can provide good advice throughout the season.

Second Place

CHRIS SANTINI

Stewartville, NJ

357.4564 bu./acre

Pioneer P1464AML

Population: 38,000

Harvester: **John Deere S770**

Following the advice of her local seed rep, Chris Santini planted **Pioneer P1464AML**, a 114-day hybrid for the contest this year. Santini, who has been in the winner's circle before, says longer season, 112- to 120-day hybrids, work best on the farm.

"We have found over time, longer season corn produces higher yields," she says. "This turned out to be an outstanding hybrid for our farm last year, so we used it again this year."

Santini credits the corn's high yield partly to early season dryness, followed by good growing season weather. "The corn had good roots in June because it had been so dry. The roots ran pretty deep and that provided more opportunity to capture nutrients and water," she says.

Corn was planted in 30-inch rows with a LumiGEN seed treatment. Starter fertilizer was applied before planting followed by a top-dress treatment at 15- to 18-inch corn. Total nutrients applied were 350 pounds of nitrogen per acre and 100 pounds each of phosphorus and potassium.

"We are starting to see some positive changes in soil composition since the field was last tilled three years ago," she says. "We rotate with soybeans, planting them in the corn stubble. I think together with the no-till and planting a great hybrid, we were able to maximize yield."

SUPERVISORS

Hank Bignell: Extension Agent, Warren County

Robert Mickel: Retired Extension Agent, Warren County

Third Place

JILL JUSTICE

Daniels, WV

355.8628 bu./acre

Pioneer P1197

Population: 35,000

Harvester: **Claas Lexion 730**

Jill Justice has made land preparation, fertilization and top-dressing the corn crop as needed a priority after many years of training by her father. That paid off in 2020 as Justice returned to the winner's circle with a 355-plus bushel corn yield.

"We monitor our soil health by sampling at least every other year and following any recommendations for lime application. We maintain soil pH at 6.5," she says.

Justice began the season in the no-till, corn-on-corn field with a burndown application of Roundup PowerMAX 2 and Saber herbicides for broad spectrum, early season weed control. That was followed by the first of three nutrient applications, a pre-plant treatment of 150-150-125, sulfur and zinc. She selected **Pioneer P1197**, a conventional 111-day hybrid. Justice used a **John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Plus vacuum planter** and completed planting on May 26.

In-season crop management focused on weed and disease control. Justice applied Bicep 2 Magnum and Roundup PowerMAX 2 herbicides postemergence, along with a second fertilizer application of 130-40-40, sulfur and zinc. A final aerial application at tassel included Maximum N-Pact K, along with Stratego YLD fungicide.

SUPERVISORS

Cindy Johnson: Ag Insurance Agent, J.T. Davis Insurance Co.

Jason Parker: Ag Insurance Agent, J.T. Davis Insurance Co.

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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C: NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

ALABAMA

Ben Haynes Cullman, AL	266.3950	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	26600	–	Harness Roundup WeatherMax	–	225/60/120	Kinze 3600 Case IH 2588
Jamie Roberts Fort Payne, AL	262.5084	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	29450	–	Atrazine 4L, Resicore Roundup PowerMax	–	300/115/120	Kinze 3500 John Deere S670
Dennis Dean Fackler, AL	254.0682	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	34200	–	Acuron, Gly Star Plus Halex GT, Peak	Miravis Priaxor	300/80/180	Case IH 1200 Case IH 7120

ARKANSAS

Danny Simpson Rector, AR	216.8530	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Lumivia	28000	–	Atrazine 4L, Barrage Halex GT, Lexar, Roundup	CoRoN Quadris	200/150/100	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9600
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COLORADO

Steve Millage Holyoke, CO	85.5000	DEKALB DKC57-99RIB	DG-VT2PRIB	Amplify D+Poncho 250	15000	–	Atrazine 4L, Corvus Roundup Max	–	100/20/5	Case IH 1250 Case IH 7088
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CONNECTICUT

Jeffrey Lipton Somers, CT	218.5171	Channel 197-90	Conv	Acceleron	33250	–	Atrazine 4L, Realm Q Roundup PowerMax	–	250/100/200	John Deere 7200 Conservation John Deere 9500
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DELAWARE

Alan Garey Felton, DE	238.8068	Channel 219-77VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	27000	–	–	–	200/0/40	Harvest International Ultra Plant Series 40/Case IH 7240
G Wilson Smyrna, DE	237.4903	DEKALB DKC62-53RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	28500	–	Atrazine 4L Resicore, Stinger	–	220/60/120	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH 8230
Aaron R Thompson Hartly, DE	234.4400	Channel 218-44VT2PRIB	VT2P-RIB	Acceleron	26000	–	Resicore	–	200/0/30	Kinze 2600 Gleaner R62

FLORIDA

Samantha Jones Wellborn, FL	218.0055	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	poncho+votivo	26530	–	–	–	210/50/240	Monosem Twin Row Case IH 1660
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KANSAS

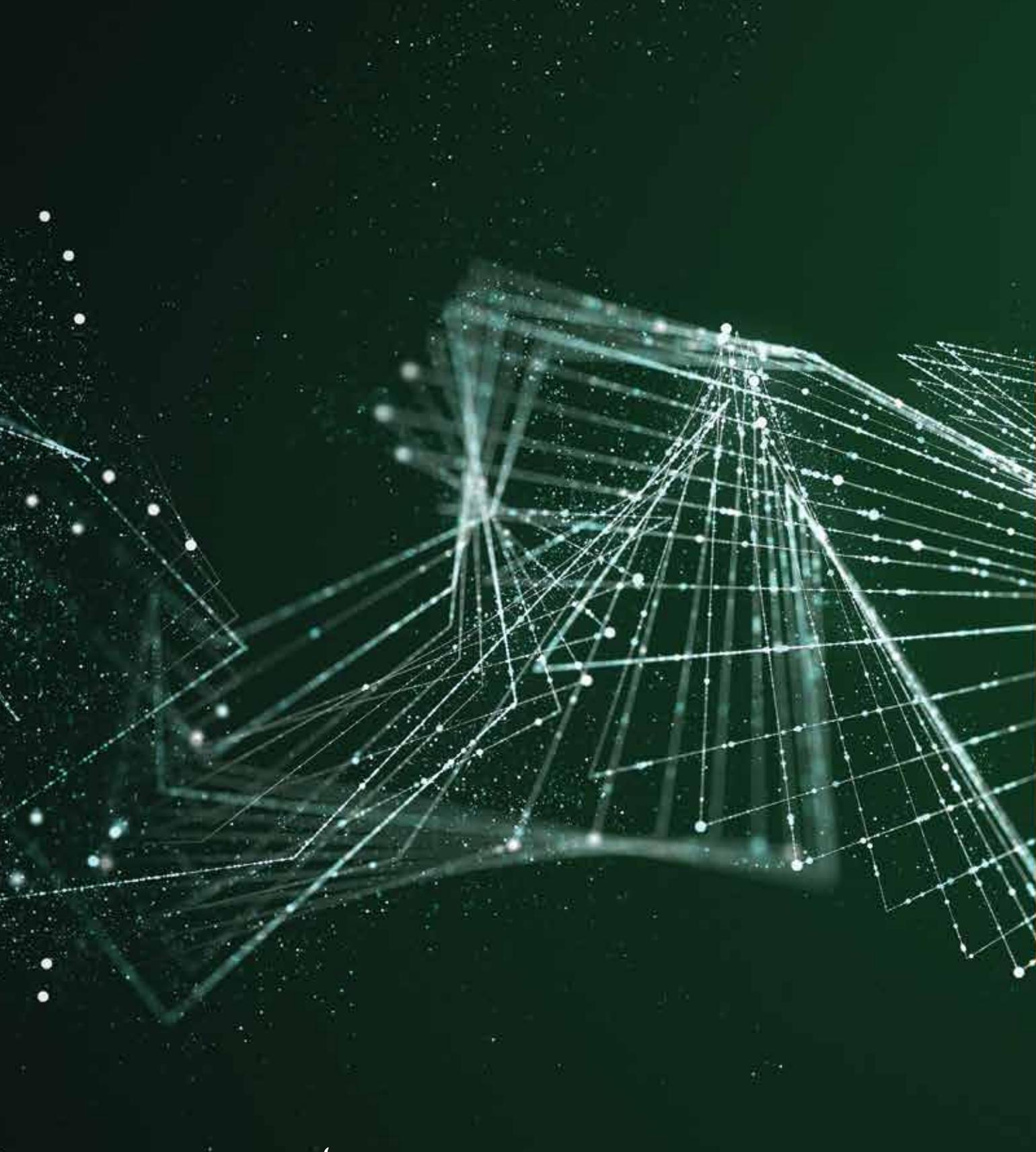
Dean or Victor Menold Hiawatha, KS	301.5872	Beck's Hybrids 6414VT2P	VT2P	Poncho 500+Nemasect +Poncho 2.0	33000	–	–	–	250/55/100	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere S670
Glenn Heinen Seneca, KS	274.2057	Pioneer P1464AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	Lumivia	28000	–	Liberty	–	150/65/65	John Deere 1795 John Deere S770
Roger Rush Highland, KS	267.0091	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32000	–	–	–	200/70/60	John Deere 1795 Case 7240

KENTUCKY

Kevin Hayden Mayfield, KY	324.9836	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	Permethrin 3.2	Atrazine 4L Keystone, LI 700 Roundup PowerMax	Miravis Quit Xcel	300/115/180	John Deere 1790 John Deere S680
Scott Ebelhar Loretto, KY	305.2044	DEKALB DKC64-32	CONV	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33000	–	–	–	187/19/53	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S780
Albert Peterson Loretto, KY	298.5710	AgriGold A6572	Conv	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33000	–	–	–	187/19/30	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S780

LOUISIANA

Danny Schexnayder Erwinville, LA	238.5782	Dyna-Gro D54VC14	VT2P	Cruiser Extreme 250 +Poncho 250	32000	–	–	–	210/20/100	John Deere 1720 CCS Stack-Fold John Deere 9760 STS
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Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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C: NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

MASSACHUSETTS

Dan Llewelyn Northfield, MA	229.2153	Channel 206-11STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	51000	-	Atrazine 4L, Dicamba DMA Durango DMA, Status	-	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/John Deere 9500
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MARYLAND

Drew Haines Middletown, MD	324.1849	DEKALB DKC68-69RIB	VT2PRIB	-	39000	-	Roundup PowerMax	-	315/100/315	John Deere 7200 John Deere 9500
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Harrison Rigdon Jarrettsville, MD	320.6821	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	40000	Brigade 2EC Comite	Atrazine, Basis Blend Cornerstone DiFlexx, Lumax EZ	-	300/120/400	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere 9670 STS
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Chad Rigdon Jarrettsville, MD	286.4171	DEKALB DKC62-52RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	38000	-	-	-	300/120/400	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere 9670 STS
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MAINE

Tyler Bartlett New Gloucester, ME	199.6522	Channel 192-08VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	-	34000	-	Diablo, Roundup PowerMax, Volley ATZ	Fortix	210/0/0	White 6100 John Deere 9510
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MICHIGAN

Jay Ferguson Yale, MI	269.3473	Pioneer P0075AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	-	-	-	180/100/200	Case IH 2160 Case IH 9240
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Rudy Schutte Alto, MI	264.9863	Pioneer P0806AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Lumivia	34000	-	-	-	150/0/100	John Deere 1770 John Deere 9570 STS
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Matt Scharl Lawrence, MI	260.3566	DEKALB DKC54-64RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	34000	-	-	-	225/35/150	John Deere 7200 John Deere 6620
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MISSISSIPPI

Michael Williams Coldwater, MS	282.8289	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	Poncho 500	37000	Warrior II	Array, Callisto Harness, Roundup WeatherMax	Headline	0/0/0	Great Plains YP-625A John Deere S670
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Adam Hurt Senatobia, MS	270.4051	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	Poncho 500	36000	-	-	-	276/92/120	Monosem Twin Row John Deere S670
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Chris Taylor Coldwater, MS	254.3211	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	-	36000	-	AAtrex DF, Roundup PowerMax, Warrant	Trivapro	280/0/0	John Deere 1780 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum/John Deere S680
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NORTH CAROLINA

Ed Wood Andrews, NC	268.2602	AgriGold A6544VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Poncho 1250	30000	-	-	-	230/2/75	John Deere 1780 Drawn Rigid Gleaner R52
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Keith Wood Andrews, NC	260.4858	DEKALB DKC63-57	VT2P	Poncho 1250	30500	-	-	-	230/2/75	John Deere 1780 Drawn Rigid Gleaner R52
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Dennis Boerema Pantego, NC	256.6053	DEKALB DKC63-57	VT2P	Poncho 1250	36000	-	-	-	240/50/150	John Deere DB44 Case IH 8120
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NEBRASKA

Mike Scholting Louisville, NE	307.9637	Channel 213-19VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	FAHL1	28997	-	-	-	300/150/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9770 STS
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Marvin and Glenn Wiles Plattsmouth, NE	294.2494	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	42000	Bifenthrin	Atrazine+Roundup Laudis	Approch Prima	0/0/0	John Deere 1795 John Deere s770
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Jonathan Bodlak Wakefield, NE	288.4192	Hoegemeyer Hybrids 8064™	CONV	Acceleron +Poncho 250	32000	-	-	-	225/60/70	Case IH 1240 Claas Lexion 8600
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NEW JERSEY

Chris Santini Stewartsville, NJ	357.4564	Pioneer P1464AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	38000	-	-	-	350/100/100	John Deere 1795 John Deere S770
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	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
C: NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED										
Thomas Meyer Pittstown, NJ	274.2008	DEKALB DKC64-87RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	40000	-	-	-	210/50/90	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S660
NEW YORK										
Craig Phelps Groverland, NY	239.1686	Hubner Seeds H6134RCSS	SSRIB	Acceleron+Poncho 250	35000	-	-	-	190/66/0	Kinze 3600 Claas Lexion 740
John Macauley Mount Morris, NY	238.3885	LG Seeds Lg5525VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Poncho 250	33000	-	Aim, Atrazine Realm Q, Roundup PowerMax	-	240/100/120	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9500
PENNSYLVANIA										
Matthew Beam Elverson, PA	296.1146	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	-	-	-	200/0/300	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S780
David Wolfskill Wernersville, PA	282.1263	DEKALB DKC64-34	SS	Poncho 250	34000	-	Glyphosate	-	250/0/0	White 8831 CFS Narrow Transport, Case IH 2388
Kristen Grumbine Lebanon, PA	276.9445	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	Amplify +Poncho 250	34300	-	-	-	200/0/150	John Deere 1795 John Deere 9510
SOUTH CAROLINA										
Daniel Gause, Sr. Scranton, SC	387.0916	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	-	33500	-	-	-	350/200/150	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670
SOUTH DAKOTA										
Scott McKee Hawarden, IA	272.8326	Pioneer P0507Q	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	33950	-	-	-	285/90/85	Case IH 955 Vertical-Fold Case IH 2366
Dean Bosse Elk Point, SD	267.3058	Pioneer P1082AM™	AM,LL,RR2	RR LL	33500	-	-	-	200/75/40	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold John Deere 9760 STS
Jeffery Fliehs Groton, SD	255.3137	Pioneer P9880AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	35500	-	-	-	225/175/50	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680
TENNESSEE										
Eric Reed Elora, TN	300.7919	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	-	37000	-	-	-	210/60/110	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S660
Matthew Davis Sparta, TN	290.9212	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	-	38000	-	-	-	270/120/220	Kinze 3660 Case IH 8230
Mark Davis Sparta, TN	287.4922	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	-	32000	-	-	-	270/120/220	Kinze 3660 Case IH 8230
TEXAS										
Brian Fink Cost, TX	166.0766	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Cruiser Extreme 500	22000	-	Keystone LA	-	160/55/12	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670
VIRGINIA										
Ben Williams Swoope, VA	286.4404	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	-	32500	-	Atrazine 90 DF Harness Xtra, Roundup	-	280/100/300	John Deere 1750 Case IH 2188
Billy French Woodstock, VA	272.9121	DEKALB DKC64-34RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	-	Armezon Pro	-	240/0/0	Kinze 3500 John Deere 9510
Guy Gochenour Woodstock, VA	271.0090	DEKALB DKC68-69RIB	VT2PRIB	-	37000	-	Lumax EZ	-	300/0/100	Kinze 3600 John Deere S670
VERMONT										
Jacob Bourdeau Sheldon, VT	198.0144	Pioneer P0075Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	37000	-	Atrazine 4L, Resicore Roundup PowerMax	-	272/88/250	Kinze 3400 Case IH Axial Flow 7250

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
C: NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED										
Brian Llewelyn Northfield, MA	138.3498	Channel 203-01STXRIB	SSRIB	Accelaron +Poncho 250	38000	–	–	–	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/John Deere 9500
WASHINGTON										
John Aeschliman Cofax, WA	104.4263	DEKALB DKC27-54	RR2	–	32000	–	–	–	110/10/0	John Deere 7000 Case IH Axial-Flow 7088
WEST VIRGINIA										
Justice Family Farms Daniels, WV	355.8628	Pioneer P1197	CONV	–	34000	–	–	–	375/180/225	John Deere 1700 MaxEmergePlus Vacuum/Claas Lexion 730
Ronald Widmyer Charles Town, WV	245.5238	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Accelaron +Poncho 250	30000	–	–	–	200/90/90	John Deere 1770 Conservation Case IH 1680
Grace Wolpert Hurricane, WV	220.3241	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Accelaron	31000	Force	Dual	–	210/50/100	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9670 STS
WYOMING										
Lee Peterson Albin, WY	68.4928	Pioneer P8989AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser +Poncho 250	15000	–	Laudis Roundup PowerMax	–	90/30/0	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP/John Deere 9770 STS



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- AM1** – Optimum® AcreMax® 1 insect protection system with an integrated corn rootworm refuge solution includes HXX,LL,RR2. Optimum AcreMax 1 products contain the LibertyLink® gene and can be sprayed with Liberty® herbicide. The required corn borer refuge can be planted up to a half-mile away.
 - AM** – Optimum® AcreMax® insect protection system with YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2. Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above-ground insects. In EPA-designated cotton-growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Optimum AcreMax products.
 - AMT** – Optimum® AcreMax® TRIsect® insect protection system with RW,YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2. Contains a single-bag refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, the YieldGard® Corn Borer gene and the Herculex® I gene. In EPA-designated cotton-growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Optimum AcreMax TRIsect products.
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 - Q** (Qrome®) – Contains a single-bag integrated refuge solution for above- and below-ground insects. The major component contains the Agrisure® RW trait, the YieldGard® Corn Borer gene and the Herculex® XTRA gene. In EPA-designated cotton-growing counties, a 20% separate corn borer refuge must be planted with Qrome® products. Qrome products are approved for cultivation in the U.S. and Canada. They have also received approval in a number of importing countries, most recently China. For additional information about the status of regulatory authorizations, visit <http://www.biotradestatus.com/>.
 - YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2** (Optimum® Intrasect®) – Contains the YieldGard® Corn Borer gene and Herculex® I gene for resistance to corn borer.
 - YGCB,HXX,LL,RR2** (Optimum® Intrasect® Xtra) – Contains the YieldGard® Corn Borer gene and the Herculex XTRA gene for resistance to corn borer and corn rootworm.
 - RW,HX1,LL,RR2** (Optimum® TRIsect®) – Contains the Herculex I gene for above-ground pests and the Agrisure® RW trait for resistance to corn rootworm.
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 - AVBL,YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2** (Optimum® Leptra®) – Contains the Agrisure Viptera® trait, the YieldGard® Corn Borer gene, the Herculex® I gene, the LibertyLink® gene and the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 trait.
 - HX1** – Contains the Herculex® I insect protection gene which provides protection against European corn borer, southwestern corn borer, black cutworm, fall armyworm, lesser cornstalk borer, southern cornstalk borer and sugarcane borer; and suppresses corn earworm.
 - HXRW** – The Herculex® RW rootworm protection trait contains proteins that provide enhanced resistance against western corn rootworm, northern corn rootworm and Mexican corn rootworm.
 - HXX** – Herculex® XTRA insect protection contains the Herculex I and Herculex RW genes.
 - YGCB** – The YieldGard® Corn Borer gene offers a high level of resistance to European corn borer, southwestern corn borer and southern cornstalk borer; moderate resistance to corn earworm and common stalk borer; and above-average resistance to fall armyworm.
 - LL** – Contains the LibertyLink® gene for resistance to Liberty® herbicide.
 - RR2** – Contains the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 trait that provides crop safety for over-the-top applications of labeled glyphosate herbicides when applied according to label directions.
 - AQ** – Optimum® AQUAmax® product. **Product performance in water-limited environments is variable and depends on many factors, such as the severity and timing of moisture deficiency, heat stress, soil type, management practices and environmental stress, as well as disease and pest pressures. All products may exhibit reduced yield under water and heat stress. Individual results may vary.**
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First Place



SHAWN KALB

Dubois, IN

329.0569 bu./acre
DEKALB DKC64-35RIB
Population: 44,000
Harvester: Case IH 8230

SUPERVISORS

Tim Robinette: Ag Loan Officer,
Old National Bank

Nick Stevens: Ag Loan Officer,
Old National Bank

With a yield of 329 bu./acre and first-place finish in this class, Shawn Kalb continues building on her reputation for being a premier corn grower. Over the past four years, she's notched three first-place finishes and a second-place award in the contest. "The excitement never wears off," she says. "Every year, on the day the winners are announced, we're waiting by the phone, hoping that it rings, and that we get the news we did well."

Selecting a hybrid that matched up well with the soil in her contest field was the jumping off point for Kalb's winning effort this year. She worked closely with her DeKalb seed rep and eventually chose DEKALB DKC64-35RIB. "It gives you a good, healthy plant all the way through the season," she says. "It's a strong finisher and will deliver good test weights."

Kalb's contest entry went into the ground May 29 at a population of 43,000 seeds/acre. "We really don't push populations too much higher than that," she says. "With thicker plantings, the corn can't cool at night when you get farther along in the summer. Thinner populations let the plants release more heat."

At planting, she treated seed with ColdFlo from Nutrien Ag Solutions, then ran a 9-04-3 starter fertilizer from Monty's Plant Food Company into the furrow along with Capture insecticide and PGR Radiate. At the same time, she laid a micronutrient package two inches

deep and two inches to both sides of the seed trench. "We want to have a good energy source out there for the plants right out of the gate," Kalb says. "The goal is to keep them going until they can move out to where the real heavy-lifting nutrients are located."

Applications of granulated sugar aimed at providing additional energy at key points in the growing season and reducing insect pressure were also part of her game plan. This year, she applied four pounds per acre at planting, V5, V10 and with fungicide passes at brown silk and then three weeks later. "We've been tinkering with the rates over the past few years and we'll probably bump them up again next year," Kalb says. "We've been learning more and more about the connection between the microbes in the soil and yield. You can put out all kinds of nutrients for the plants. But if you don't have the bugs out there to convert those nutrients into food, it won't do you any good."

Key To High Yields

- Match hybrids to soils and fertility.
- Consider summer heat when making seeding rate decisions.
- Use sugar to boost microbial activity.

Second Place

JONATHAN BORGES

Marshall, MO

317.1560 bu./acre
AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB
Population: 36,000
Harvester: Case IH 5088

Jonathan Borges is a quick study. Last year, in just his first year of entering the yield contest, he captured third-place honors in this class with a yield of 305 bu./acre. This year, he bested that yield by 12 bushels and moved up a notch in the standings.

Taking part in the contest offers an opportunity to try new practices on limited acreage and assess whether you want to implement them on more acres in the future, he says. A new practice for Borges this year was doubling up on fungicide applications. Last year, he did just one fly-on at tassel. This year, he flew on Veltyma at V10, then came back again at brown silk.

"We were pretty wet early in the season, but that second application really cut down those late-season diseases," he says. "And the plants stayed a lot healthier overall later in the season. When we combined, the stalks and leaves were still pretty green. We could have chopped it for silage."

For a contest hybrid, Borges chose AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB. "This was the first time we've used it," he says. "It gives you really good test weights and performs very well. It also has good standability. That's very important to us. We can get a lot of wind here on our hillier ground. This year, we didn't see one lodged stalk in this field."

SUPERVISOR

Marc Jensen: Ag Loan Officer, FCS Financial

Third Place

AARON ADAM

Richland, IA

312.7265 bu./acre
Pioneer P1563AM
Population: 34,000
Harvester: John Deere 9660 STS

Hitting the 300-plus bushel mark has been a long-time goal for Aaron Adam. This year, his contest entry came through delivering nearly 313 bu./acre and a third-place award in this class.

Even so, Adam finds himself wondering what might have been if not for a late-season weather glitch. "We couldn't have asked for much better weather in June and July," he says. "It wasn't overly hot and we were getting timely rains. Walking through the fields in late July, we felt like we were looking at some of the best corn we had ever grown."

Then the weather turned. "From August 2 through September 6, we didn't get a drop of rain," says Adam. "And it turned hot, too. We had one 10-day stretch where the highs were in the upper 90s every day. If we had had just a couple of rains during that time, we figure our yield would have been 20-25 bushels higher."

Adam believes multiple fungicide applications also played a role in his award-winning yield. He used a Hagie Highboy to apply Priaxor at V10. At tassel, he treated the field with another ground application of Veltyma. "We've been tracking it for a while and we've seen that fungicides give us a yield boost of seven to 10 bushels by keeping the plant healthy longer," he says.

SUPERVISOR

Jared Schultz: Ag Loan Officer, Federation Bank

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester	
D: NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED*										
IOWA										
Aaron Adam Richland, IA	312.7265	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	White 9800 Narrow Transport John Deere 9660 STS
Michael Delaney Dubuque, IA	303.0375	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	35500	Capture LFR	Atrazine 4L Corvus	–	200/125/120	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S780
Todd Williams Oakland, IA	292.1130	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	33600	–	–	–	160/0/0	Kinze 3600 Case IH 5088
ILLINOIS										
Melissa Yocum Oregon, IL	307.3369	AgriGold A6499 STXRIB	STXRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34100	Tundra	Atrazine 4L Laudis	–	310/100/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770 STS
Leslie Lindner Keokuk, IL	296.7814	Beck's Hybrids 6622AM	AM	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	36500	–	–	–	225/150/300	White 9824 John Deere S680
Lucas Lilja Pecatonica, IL	293.3794	Pioneer P1185Q	Q,LL,RR2	max	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere 9770 STS
INDIANA										
Shawn Kalb Dubois, IN	329.0569	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	42000	–	–	–	220/0/0	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8230
Terry Vissing Marysville, IN	310.0118	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33000	–	2,4-D Exter 6 AAtrax NineO, Corvus	–	230/80/140	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9670 STS
Kim Ging Rushville, IN	308.4614	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	35500	–	Glyphosate	–	0/0/0	Kinze 3600 Case IH 8120
MINNESOTA										
Pat Fohrman Saint Charles, MN	297.7315	DEKALB DKC54-64RIB	SSRIB	Poncho 500	35800	–	–	–	220/140/130	John Deere 7200 Case IH 2588
Gary Redalen Fountain, MN	290.8753	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	–	Balance Flexx, Degree Xtra Roundup PowerMax Sterling Blue	–	198/20/180	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670
Dan Fohrman Dover, MN	290.7513	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	Poncho 500	35500	–	2,4-D Amine, Atrazine Buccaneer 5, Staunch	–	210/140/125	John Deere 7200 Case IH 2588
MISSOURI										
Jonathan Borges Marshall, MO	317.1560	AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	–	35000	–	–	–	260/80/80	John Deere 7200 Case IH 5088
Justin Borges Marshall, MO	310.5531	AgriGold A6579 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	–	35000	–	–	–	275/100/100	John Deere 7200 Case IH 5088
Mike Reagan Rushville, MO	303.3852	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	ELT250	34500	–	–	–	0/0/0	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH 2588
OHIO										
Doug Swaim Cedarville, OH	286.6184	NK Brand NK1082A	3330	–	38500	–	Halex GT	–	280/40/150	John Deere 1795 Case IH 7240
Steve Neill Waterford, OH	283.9792	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	–	34000	–	Atrazine 90DG, Brawl II Roundup PowerMax	Trivapro	0/0/0	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9500 SideHill
Rob Schmidt Arcanum, OH	283.1070	Pioneer P1197YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	37100	–	Roundup PowerMax Status	–	225/38/180	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus/John Deere 9400
WISCONSIN										
Dale Bahr Belmont, WI	310.5680	DEKALB DKC63-90RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	36000	–	Atrazine 90 DF, DiFlexx Laudis, Mad Dog Plus, Warrant	–	245/95/120	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S770
Kevin Bahr Darlington, WI	300.3827	Pioneer P1185Q	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN	37000	–	Abundit Extra, Atrazine 4L Callisto, Keystone	–	250/95/120	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S770
Steve Van Bogaert Belmont, WI	298.3654	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	37000	–	–	–	220/90/120	Kinze 3600 John Deere S670

First Place



JEFFREY BARLIEB
Stewartsville, NJ

358.7429 bu./acre
Pioneer P1197AMT
Population: 40,000
Harvester: John Deere S770

SUPERVISORS

Hank Bignell: Warren County Extension Agent

Robert Mickel: Retired Warren County Extension Agent

Jeffrey Barlieb's take on farming is to never get too comfortable with where you're at. "I love all facets of farming and want to watch my yields go up every year," says the first-time national winner with a yield just shy of 359 bu./acre.

His operation, located in western New Jersey, consists of clay soils that he tests every year using a zone system. Fertility is determined not only from years of experience, but also with help from an independent crop consultant.

"We rely on that consultant and our seed salesman to help select hybrids," he says. "I look for stacked traits to help combat diseases like grey leaf spot and to get us the yields." This year he planted Pioneer P1197AMT on his winning acres using strip-till. The rest of the farm is in a more conventional tillage system.

"We regularly use InVigor Z M2 starter fertilizer from Growmark on our entire farm — and on our contest plot, too," Barlieb says. "Besides helping plants emerge quicker, starter helps develop a stronger stand and overall faster growth." Other fertilizer is broadcast applied pre-plant and later side-dressed. Plus, he uses fungicide early post planting and at least twice more during the growing season.

Barlieb had regular rains in May and good planting conditions, but June was another story. "It was a rough month and we only got eight-tenths of an inch. Surprisingly, it didn't affect growth all that much." July and August were hot, but also brought good rains.

He used a John Deere 1795 planter, slowing to 3 mph on his contest acres to get better seed placement and more accuracy. Barlieb says that led to a better stand.

During the growing season, Barlieb relied on his crop consultant for herbicide recommendations and application rates. This year Acuron anchored his weed control program. "We also tissue sampled our contest and overall farm acres twice this year," he says.

Fall weather conditions ahead of harvest "were about as good as you could get. It was dry with just the right amount of rain," he says. "We harvested our contest acres the second week of October when temperatures were at about 50 degrees."

Barlieb looks at contest acres — and other test plots on his farm — to help determine what management changes he'll make the following year. "I always want to know if what I do actually works, especially when it comes to hybrid genetics," he says.

Key To High Yields

- Fine-tune fertilizer program, beginning with starter.
- Be diligent in selecting the right hybrid.
- Hire a capable, qualified independent crop consultant for advice.

Second Place

LEONARD TRUSZKOWSKI
Stewartsville, NJ

329.7905 bu./acre
Dyna-Gro D55VC80RIB
Population: 36,000
Harvester: Claas Lexion 570

Back for his second year in the contest, Leonard Truskowski scored a second place in this class with a nearly 330 bu./acre yield. "After entering last year, I was hooked and ready to push even harder this year," he says. "It's really fun to do.

"We started grid sampling about 10 years ago and that's given us more consistent yields because we can variable-rate fertilizer where needed," he says.

Weekly tissue sampling happens throughout the growing season and any needed nutrients are supplied through a foliar spray. "We start sampling as the crop comes out of the ground until it hits black layer, about 20 times a year," he adds. Right from the start, however, he applies chicken litter from a local poultry operation. Besides the fertility benefit, he credits it for adding organic matter and micronutrients back into the soil.

When planting last spring Truskowski found a window of near-perfect conditions. But during the growing season it turned dry about the end of June through July and corn started to roll. Still, his Dyna-Gro D55VC80RIB performed well on the contest acres and on about 50 other farm acres. In total, he plants 20-24 different hybrids every year with sage advice from his seed dealer.

"Even though we had a day of 50 mph winds with some down corn in the area, our harvest conditions were very good," says Truskowski.

SUPERVISORS

Christian Bench: Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bridgett Hilshey: Ag Specialist, New Jersey RC&D

Third Place

JOHN RIGDON
Jarrettsville, MD

324.0153 bu./acre
DEKALB DKC65-95RIB
Population: 38,000
Harvester: John Deere 9670 STS

In the last 25 years, John Rigdon has only missed one NCGA corn yield contest. In fact, this year he's back with a third place win in this class. "We thrive on competition and trying new things," he says. "We never stop learning from other farmers who have entered the yield contest.

"We soil test by zone every year so we can keep our soil in an optimal fertility range. And, we use lots of cover crops to help with erosion and to keep nutrients in the soil," says Rigdon, who grows corn and soybeans on Maryland's rolling hills. Wheat, oats, rye and radishes fit the bill in his cover crop program.

He always looks for maximum yield, but also selects hybrids with good stalk strength and disease tolerance traits. "We regularly battle grey leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight, so hybrid selection is critical," he says.

On most of his corn ground, he plants 34,000 seeds/acre, but on his contest acres he bumped that up to 38,000. He also gives seed a jump start with starter fertilizer which he claims immediately takes stress off the plant. Throughout the growing season, Rigdon applies foliar and dry fertilizer.

This season started with a wet, cold spring, then turned hot and dry by the end of June and July, followed by a wet August. Fortunately, he planted his contest acres on May 6 and caught ideal weather conditions. "We had unseasonably warm weather in the fall and really good harvest conditions," he says.

SUPERVISOR

Roy Norris: Retired Ag Instructor, Edgewood High School

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	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
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E: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

ALABAMA

Mike Henderson Madison, AL	291.4699	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	30400	–	Atrazine 4F, Balance Flexx, Buccaneer 5 Callisto	Azoxystrobin Quit Xcel	280/60/60	John Deere 1795 John Deere S690
Elvie Hunter Hazel Green, AL	284.2988	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	–	–	–	200/60/145	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP Case IH Axial-Flow 8120
Jessie Hobbs Elkmont, AL	272.8110	DEKALB DKC65-20RIB	DG-VT2PRIB	Amplify D +Poncho 1250	36000	Warrior II	Array, Callisto Harness, Roundup WeatherMax	Affiance	250/0/0	John Deere 1795 John Deere S680

COLORADO

Brian Wood Two Buttes, CO	87.9710	Pioneer P0622AML™	AML,LL,RR2	–	24000	–	–	–	175/40/0	John Deere DB90 John Deere S680
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CONNECTICUT

Louis Lipton Somers, CT	219.0695	Channel 213-19	Conv	Acceleron	32900	–	–	–	250/100/200	John Deere 7200 Conservation John Deere 9500
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FLORIDA

Ann McLeod Ochlocknee, GA	224.4904	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	27463	–	–	–	210/50/210	Monosem MS Twin Line Case IH 1660
Ryan Jenkins Milton, FL	216.8254	Croplan Seed 5340VT2P	VT2P	VT2P	27000	–	Resicore Roundup+Status	–	300/125/200	John Deere 1720 Case IH 2188

KANSAS

Jeff Koelzer Onaga, KS	323.6878	DEKALB DKC63-57RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35000	–	–	–	346/60/60	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8240
Richard Nietfeld Marysville, KS	282.2781	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	VOTIVO	28700	–	–	–	235/0/0	John Deere 1790 CCS Case IH 7140
Gary Kramer Seneca, KS	262.7790	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	–	28000	–	Atrazine, Callisto Roundup, Halex GT	Priaxor Trivapro	0/0/0	John Deere 1790 John Deere 9660 STS

KENTUCKY

Tom Goetz Owensboro, KY	288.5095	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Poncho 500	31000	–	Atrazine+Dual Callisto	–	220/0/0	John Deere 1770NT Case IH 8240
Mark Sparks Owensboro, KY	285.5031	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32000	–	Halex GT	–	200/100/200	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 790
Chris Kummer Franklin, KY	284.4010	Beck's Hybrids 6274VT2P	VT2P	Escalate	40750	–	–	–	315/30/69	John Deere 1795 John Deere S670

LOUISIANA

Cindy Hargrave Tallulah, LA	241.2489	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	–	33000	–	Halex GT	–	250/20/0	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S680
Ray Schexnayder Ventress, LA	237.8390	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	–	34500	–	–	–	220/20/60	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus John Deere S680
Donald Schexnayder Port Allen, LA	233.0200	DEKALB DKC65-93	RR2	–	35000	–	–	–	225/35/0	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus John Deere S680

MASSACHUSETTS

Matt Parsons Hadley, MA	231.4086	Pioneer P0306AM™	AM,LL,RR2	PPST 250	32500	–	–	–	220/0/150	Kinze 2500 John Deere 9550
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	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
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E: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

Susan Kosinski Westfield, MA	222.1054	Channel 200-67VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35500	–	Cinch ATZ	–	270/40/130	Kinze 2500 Case IH 8230
MARYLAND										
John Rigdon Jarrettsville, MD	324.0153	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	38000	–	–	–	300/120/400	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere 9670 STS
Chris Weaver Finksburg, MD	266.8401	AgriGold A6499 STXRIB	STXRIB	–	34000	–	Lumax EZ	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum/Case IH 2588
Thomas Walsh Hampstead, MD	264.0395	AgriGold A647-46 STX	STX	–	32000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum John Deere 9670 STS
MAINE										
Alexander Hilton Norridgewock, ME	210.8179	Channel 185-30V2PRIB	VT2PRIB	avipel	31498	–	Harness Xtra 5.6L	–	150/0/60	Great Plains YP-625A Claas Lexion 450
MICHIGAN										
Nick Suwyn Wayland, MI	286.2796	Golden Harvest G09Y24-3220A EZ	3220A E-Z	Avicta	38500	–	–	–	300/50/150	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8240
Jim Schaendorf Dorr, MI	283.4495	DEKALB DKC58-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	–	–	–	300/42/60	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9600
Warner Lind Wayland, MI	280.6082	Golden Harvest G07F23-3111	3111	Avicta	37500	–	–	–	245/55/125	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8240
MISSISSIPPI										
Kenny Hurt Coldwater, MS	259.8832	AgriGold A6659 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Poncho 500	36000	–	–	–	276/92/120	Monosem Twin Row John Deere S670
Walter Rice Jackson, TN	246.9253	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	36000	–	–	–	250/80/100	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9860
Jaycelyn Brooks Coldwater, MS	232.7899	AgriGold A6659 RR	RR	Poncho 500	39000	–	–	–	240/45/135	Great Plains YP-625A John Deere S670
NORTH CAROLINA										
Delbert Armstrong Belhaven, NC	244.2438	DEKALB DKC63-57	VT2P	Acceleron	35000	–	–	–	209/138/82	John Deere DD66 John Deere S790
Jason Tyndall Clinton, NC	236.5505	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	26400	–	Atrazine DF Roundup PowerMax	–	136/5/9	John Deere 1780 Drawn Rigid John Deere 9650 STS
Darren Armstrong Belhaven, NC	213.0376	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	Acceleron	32000	–	–	–	239/117/121	John Deere DD44 John Deere S790
NORTH DAKOTA										
Jay Myers Colfax, ND	260.2352	DEKALB DKC51-40RIB	VT2PRIB	Amplify	34000	–	Abundit Extra Atrazine 4L, Realm Q	–	200/50/100	White 9824 Case IH 8240
NEBRASKA										
Paul Tighe Homer, NE	277.4833	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	37000	–	–	–	200/75/30	Kinze 3600 Case IH 7140
Stephen Miller Tecumseh, NE	258.2007	Pioneer P2042AML™	AML,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	White 9800 Narrow Transport John Deere 9550
Brent Blohm Allen, NE	242.8278	Wyyfels Hybrids W8936DGRIB	DGRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33000	–	–	–	250/105/80	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9660 STS

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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E: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

NEW HAMPSHIRE

William Llewelyn Northfield, MA	176.8616	Channel 206-11STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	50000	-	-	-	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/John Deere 9500
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NEW JERSEY

Jeffrey Barlieb Stewartsville, NJ	358.7429	Pioneer P1197AMT™	AMT,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	40000	-	-	-	350/50/100	John Deere 1780 MaxEmerge Plus Drawn Narrow-Row John Deere S770
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Leonard Truszkowski Stewartsville, NJ	329.7905	Dyna-Gro D55VC80RIB	VT2P-RIB	Acceleron	36000	-	-	-	250/250/250	John Deere 1770 Conservation Claas Lexion 570
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Scott Clucas Califon, NJ	301.4784	DEKALB DKC62-52RIB	SSRIB	-	36000	-	-	-	250/150/250	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH Axial-Flow 8120
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NEW YORK

Andrew McIlroy Pavilion, NY	273.8394	DEKALB DKC55-54RIB	DGVT2PRIB	Acceleron	35000	-	Armezon, Generic Roundup, Outlook	-	250/94/93	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9670 STS
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Joe McIlroy Piffard, NY	272.4134	DEKALB DKC52-85RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	35000	-	Dicamba Generic Roundup	-	245/98/85	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9670 STS
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Mike Ellers Schodack Landing, NY	250.1720	Chemgro 7305RDP	VT2PRIB	peak	34000	Kendo	AAtrex 4L, Acuron Dicamba DMA, Gly Star Plus, Glystar Plus	Miravis	0/0/0	Kinze 2600 Case IH 5130
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PENNSYLVANIA

Daryl Alger Lebanon, PA	297.2382	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	36500	-	-	-	250/60/90	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S780
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Kyle Henninger Breinigsville, PA	277.3418	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	acceleron 500	33500	-	Halex	-	260/32/120	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S550
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Scott Snyder Montoursville, PA	236.6526	Pioneer P0720AMT™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN	34000	-	Atrazine 4L, Corvus Roundup PowerMax	-	240/100/100	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum John Deere 9500 SideHill
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SOUTH CAROLINA

Jeff Dawson Beaufort, SC	263.5464	AgriGold A648-54STX	STX	-	33000	Hero, Lamcap Sniper	Atrazine 4L Corvus, Herbimax Roundup PowerMax Starane Ultra	Trivapro	350/80/300	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9500
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Jason Hewett Beaufort, SC	228.0848	DEKALB DKC62-08	SS	-	32000	-	Laudis	Headline AMP	350/80/300	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9500
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Thomas Jameson Orangeburg, SC	189.3657	Pioneer P1870R	RR2	Poncho 250	26000	-	Abundit, Keystone Resicore, Stinger	-	200/30/100	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7140
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SOUTH DAKOTA

Benji Obbink Ireton, IA	280.0911	Pioneer P1185AMT™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	-	Abundit, Realm Q SureStart	Approach	200/0/0	John Deere 1770NT Case IH 7230
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Brian Hefty Baltic, SD	265.8643	Hefty Seed H5832	VT2 PRO	hefty complete	32000	-	-	-	300/100/150	Case IH 1230 Case IH 9120
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Robert Holzwarth Hazel, SD	242.1930	Hefty Seed H4922	VT2 PRO	-	33000	-	-	-	160/150/125	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9770 STS
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TENNESSEE

Ethan Tanner Union City, TN	296.7071	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Acceleron	36000	-	Callisto+Roundup Keystone	-	265/40/150	John Deere 1770NT Case IH 8240
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	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
E: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED										
Elwin Tanner Union City, TN	290.7887	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Acceleron	36000	–	Bicep Lite II Magnum Medal II EC Roundup PowerMax	–	265/40/150	John Deere 1770NT Case IH 8240
Sam Bonner Viola, TN	289.4234	Dyna-Gro D55VC80	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	–	AAtrex 4L, Dicamba Glyphosate, Laudis	–	220/110/110	Kinze 3600 Case IH 7130
TEXAS										
Rick Wilson Decatur, TX	227.9253	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	22500	–	–	–	128/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S690
VIRGINIA										
Monte Heatwole McGaheysville, VA	273.6493	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	35000	–	–	–	150/0/75	Great Plains PL1230 New Holland CR8090
Timmy French Woodstock, VA	267.6967	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	–	Dicamba Roundup PowerMax	–	240/0/0	Kinze 3500 John Deere 9510
Christopher Warner Wakefield, VA	258.2810	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	Permethrin	Atrazine, Barrage Impact, Roundup	Quilt Xcel	300/60/200	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus Case IH Axial-Flow 8120
VERMONT										
Jeffrey Grembowicz West Rutland, VT	212.9069	DEKALB DKC45-66RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32200	–	–	–	160/30/50	John Deere 1750 Drawn Conservation/Case IH 2388
WEST VIRGINIA										
Lynn Widmyer Charles Town, WV	220.9977	Pioneer P1197AM™	AMT,LL,RR2	Acceleron +Poncho 250	31000	–	–	–	200/90/90	John Deere 1770 Conservation Case IH 1660

First Place



BRAD WEHR

Jasper, IN

347.4597 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC65-95RIB

Population: 42,000

Harvester: John Deere S670

SUPERVISORS

Roy Mason: Ag Loan Officer,
Farm Credit Mid-America

Chris Perkins: Agronomist,
Banded Ag LLC

Brad Wehr last appeared in the contest winner's circle in 2018, earning a third-place award with a yield of 331 bu./acre. This year, he's back with first-place honors in this class and a yield of more than 347 bushels.

On the front end of the season, Wehr wondered if he would even have a contest entry. An unusually cool spring forced him to move his planting date back to May 25. "We normally like to plant our higher-yielding ground by May 15," he says. "But if it's too cold or too wet, we won't push it. We want to give that seed a better chance of living up to its potential by putting it into warm and dry soil."

Weather improved over the next three weeks. But a dry spell lasting from mid-June through early July brought some concerns. "Some of the corn started to stress," he says. "But that was the only time during the season that the corn was lacking in moisture. From the Fourth of July on through the rest of the season, we had absolutely great growing weather. We got timely rains, and it never got really too hot."

Wehr describes the management plan for his entry as straightforward. "We hired our acres out to a custom applicator who runs a LandLuvr strip-till bar with both dry and liquid capabilities. In one pass, we banded approximately 100 pounds per acre of available nitrogen, along with other important nutrients

into the strip. Having the applicator do the strip-till and banding in that single pass saved us a lot of time, labor and fuel."

For planting, Wehr used a 16-row, John Deere 1770 planter fitted with RTK implement guidance (to follow the strip-till bar). "We had an almost perfect seedbed to work with," he says. "Everything came out of the ground evenly and we started off with a great stand. It's so important to get everything just right on day one. If you don't, you could still end up with a respectable yield. But you'll never see a top yield."

For disease control, he made three fungicide applications with a ground rig. He used Trivapro at V10, then came back with Veltyma at R1 and R4. "With those final applications, you're keeping the plant alive longer so it can take advantage of the nutrients that are still out in the field and put more energy into the ear. It gives us better kernel weights and that's what makes yield."

Key To High Yields

- Plant according to soil conditions, not by the calendar.
- Plant into a good seedbed.
- Keep plants healthy longer with fungicides.

Second Place

NIKIA KALB

Dubois, IN

323.7572 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC70-27RIB

Population: 42,000

Harvester: Case IH 8230

Nikia Kalb makes a return trip to the contest winner's circle this year. Her contest entry of just under 324 bu./acre earns second-place honors. Two years ago, she picked up a third-place award in a different non-irrigated class.

Frequent field scouting may be the most important single thing a grower can do when chasing high yield, says Kalb. "You need to walk the fields often and check for signs that something isn't going as well as it should be," she says. "You want to catch little problems before they turn into big problems."

For this year's contest entry, she tried strip-tillage for the first time. "We had heard interesting things about it from other growers," she says. "We decided to see if it would work for us. We obviously had good results, but there was definitely a steep learning curve."

Take a glance at a list of this year's national contest winners, and it's clear growing contest-winning corn is an "all-in" activity for Kalb and her family. Her parents, Kevin and Shawn, and sister, Rhylan, all earned contest awards this year. "We help each other out and encourage each other," she says. "It's challenging and takes a lot of hard work, but we have a lot of fun doing it too. It brings us closer together as a family."

SUPERVISOR

Tim Robinette: Ag Loan
Officer, Old National Bank

Third Place

CHARLES BAXTER

Darlington, WI

323.4118 bu./acre

DEKALB DKC64-34RIB

Population: 36,000

Harvester: Case IH 8240

Getting his contest entry off to a good start played a major role in producing Charles Baxter's 323 bu./acre yield, good enough for third-place honors in this class. "What you do at the start sets the stage for the entire season," he says.

Baxter put his contest entry into the ground on April 28. "A lot of our neighbors planted earlier," he says. "But we waited for the ground to get a little warmer and drier so we wouldn't have as much compaction and get a better seed bed."

He planted DEKALB DKC64-34RIB at 38,000 seeds/acre. "A population of 36,000 is pretty standard for us," he says. "But we will push things on some of our better ground. Our experience has been that if you push too hard, you'll get a lot of corn going down."

At planting, Baxter put six gallons of a 6-24-6-.25zn starter fertilizer into the furrow to "get plants out of the ground and growing as soon as possible." Post-planting, he put on 100 units of 32 percent nitrogen with Acuron herbicide, then followed up with a second pass of Callisto Xtra and Roundup PowerMAX. He also used Quadris fungicide to help get plants to tassel. A few weeks later, he made a second nitrogen application using urea and ammonium sulfate, with a stabilizer, to protect the nitrogen.

SUPERVISOR

Jeff Hodgson:
Vo Ag Instructor,
Belmont High School

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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F: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED*

IOWA

Matt Biermann Glenwood, IA	301.0391	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	33000	-	-	-	220/80/80	John Deere 1790 Gleaner R76
Craig Becker Atlantic, IA	289.9834	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	33000	-	Atrazine 4F, Capreno Roundup PowerMax	-	180/60/60	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S770
Donald Waters Cumberland, IA	289.1600	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32000	-	-	-	160/60/60	Kinze 3600 Case IH 7230

ILLINOIS

Braden Short Norris City, IL	321.7446	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	-	36000	-	Callisto, Durango DMA Volley ATZ Lite	-	330/200/200	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH 4920
Cody Book Harvard, IL	302.6517	Wyffels Hybrids W4196RIB	VT2P	Poncho 500	32700	-	-	-	220/0/0	Kinze 3800 Claas Lexion 8600
Brad Smith Milledgeville, IL	298.5291	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	34000	-	SureStart	-	230/60/100	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Claas Lexion 740

INDIANA

Brad Wehr Jasper, IN	347.4597	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	-	40000	-	-	-	225/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
Nikia Kalb Dubois, IN	323.7572	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	42000	-	Durango+Glyphosate Keystone LA	-	220/0/0	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8230
Charlotte Vissing Marysville, IN	300.9626	AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Degree	33000	-	Atrazine, DiFlexx Impact, Keystone LA	Approch Prima	230/90/140	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9670 STS

MINNESOTA

Jordan J Redalen Fountain, MN	300.4372	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	-	-	-	198/20/180	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670
Abby Fohrman Dover, MN	290.0431	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	Poncho 500	35800	-	Corvus	-	220/140/130	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/Case IH 2588
Eric Smith Decorah, IA	286.9039	Wyffels Hybrids W4196RIB	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35100	-	Roundup WeatherMax	-	102/7/1	Kinze 3600 Cat Lexion 560R

MISSOURI

Kevin O'Bannon Madison, MO	304.2148	DEKALB DKC67-44RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	31000	-	-	-	0/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770
Greg Rush Sturgeon, MO	267.1012	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	29000	-	-	-	190/60/75	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere S670
Emily Landewee Chaffee, MO	265.7343	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Poncho 500	36000	-	2,4-D Exter 6, Abundit Extra, Atrazine Prequel, Resicore	-	290/90/60	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 9230

OHIO

Don Jackson Camden, OH	319.4033	DEKALB DKC66-17RIB	SSRIB	-	35400	-	Gramoxone Inteon Resolve Q+Roundup	-	140/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9570 STS
Jeff Martin Greenville, OH	307.2394	Specialty Hybrids 42A843	SSRIB	Acceleron	39000	-	AAtrax 4L Acuron	Trivapro	0/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
Michael Valery London, OH	292.0712	Channel 216-36DGV2PRIB	DG-VT2PRIB	Acceleron	35000	-	-	-	0/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9770 STS

WISCONSIN

Charles Baxter Darlington, WI	323.4118	DEKALB DKC64-34RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	35500	-	Breakfree ATZ	-	200/90/120	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH 8240
Caleb Wolters Cuba City, WI	310.6142	Beck's Hybrids 5699VT2P	VT2P	Escalate	34000	-	Cinch ATZ Glyphosate, Instigate	-	288/90/150	Case IH 1255 Front-Fold Early Riser/John Deere S660
Daniel Kamps Darlington, WI	308.8557	Pioneer P1366Q™	Q,LL, RR2	Lumivia 250 + Lumisure 250 + Lumialza	36500	-	Roundup+Status	Fortix	0/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS/John Deere 9670

First Place



BLAKE E. JOHNSON

Holdrege, NE

322.8746 bu./acre

Pioneer P1138AML

Population: 34,500

Harvester: Claas Lexion 580

SUPERVISOR

Brent Samuelson: Ag Loan Officer, First State Bank

Blake Johnson has won several state yield contests over the years, but now has bragging rights for taking home top honors in the national contest in this class with a 322 bu./acre yield.

"I like being progressive and always want to push for higher yields," he says. "I try new things and when something works, I want to enter a contest and see how I stack up."

A couple big rain events early on kept soils wet in the spring for this central Nebraska grower. "Then, it turned hot and dry with little moisture during the growing season," says Johnson. "A couple storms went through our operation and caused green snap. However, it didn't affect our contest acres."

Twenty-five years ago, he went from gravity irrigation to center pivots. At the same time, he made his move into no-till and hasn't looked back. "The pivots allow us to really improve our management and conserve our water."

After experimenting with moisture probes for seven seasons, this year Johnson added them to every pivot on the farm. "We're lucky to be sitting on a good amount of ground water with no restrictions, but we want to make good use of it. Probes help us do that." Also, telematics allows him to efficiently run the pivots from his cell phone.

"We don't treat our contest acres any differently than we do acres on our whole farm. We usually plant about 10 hybrids that our agronomist helps us select. Because we have extreme weather here, and often high winds, we look for green snap tolerance,

standability at harvest and yield," he explains. "Pioneer P1138AML met those criteria for our contest acres."

Johnson hires a data management specialist that helps use his 2-½-acre grid samples to build yield zones. He then uses variable rate technology to apply fertilizer and to plant. "Any time we get a new hybrid, we put learning blocks out to test plant populations," he says. "Every hybrid is different so we want to make sure we've got the right population in the right place at the right time."

Instead of slowing down during planting, Johnson does the opposite and kicks up the speed to 8 mph. The entire farm — including contest acres — is planted at that speed, thanks to a locally built planter called Planter Works. It uses high speed electric drives that control population by row and seeding depth.

A dry fall and a Claas Lexion 8600TT kept harvest rolling at a good clip, too. In fact, Johnson just broke a world record of 57,926.76 bushels harvested in eight hours.

Key To High Yields

- Spend time developing fertility program.
- Use moisture probes to get maximum return on irrigation.
- Make best use of planter technology for accurate seed placement

Second Place

GRADY JOHNSON

Holdrege, NE

317.3537 bu./acre

Pioneer P1138AML

Population: 34,000

Harvester: Claas Lexion 580

SUPERVISOR

Brent Samuelson: Ag Loan Officer, First State Bank

On Grady Johnson's Nebraska operation, contest acres don't get TLC. "We don't spoon feed 15 acres just to ring a bell," he says. "But using satellite imagery, we try to pick the best part of the farm for the contest."

Johnson planted Pioneer P1138AML and averaged 317 bu./A, earning him second place in this class. Near-perfect planting conditions were followed by a hot, dry growing season. Center pivot irrigation and moisture probes allowed him to apply just the right amount of water.

"We want to watch how many bushels we pull off for the amount of water and fertilizer we put on," he says. "To promote deep roots, you need to get enough water on. Too little hurts the crop, and so does too much."

All acres were grid sampled and micronutrients applied in the winter. In the spring, Johnson applied a burn-down and put on 50 pounds of nitrogen, then an additional 50 pounds per acre at planting.

At V5 he adds more micronutrients and a half rate (3 ounces) of preventative Headline SC fungicide. At tassel, he comes back with insecticide, if needed, boron and another pass of fungicide. "We've been using this two-pass fungicide program for several years. We like to spend our money on preventative, not curative." Follow-up nitrogen gets spoon fed via fertigation.

Harvest was a breeze for Johnson, who had dry conditions with almost no wind. That was a bonus, he says, "because eight of the last 10 years we've had a wind event that's caused harvest problems."

Third Place

DAN LUEPKES

Chana, IL

310.4980 bu./acre

AgriGold A641-06VT2RIB

Population: 37,000

Harvester: John Deere 9770 STS

SUPERVISOR

Adam Herwig: Ag Loan Officer, Compeer

Dan Luepkes was a little surprised when he got the call that he'd won third place in the no-till irrigated class with a 310 bu./acre yield. He'd won state titles before, but this was his first time on the national stage.

"Every year I try harder to beat my previous year's yields," says the northern Illinois grower. Part of his farming mantra centers around soil health, which he claims is the key to higher yields. He uses cover crops to build soil organic matter and his go-to is a mix of fall rye and oats. "I also use manure from my cattle operation plus poultry litter when available.

"I grid soil sample every other year to zero in on nutrient needs and variable-rate both fertilizer and planting rates based on yield and soil type," he adds.

On his contest acres he used a plant population of 36,000. In addition, weekly tissue sampling helped pinpoint nutrition and disease issues. He regularly switches up herbicides to prevent using the same chemicals in an effort to keep soil healthy.

A wet spring at planting was followed by the driest August in 20 years. "Even with irrigation, it was tough to get enough water on," he says.

Harvest conditions were good on the contest acres, but on much of his farm, the derecho that swept across Iowa caused substantial amounts of downed corn.

Luepkes belongs to XtremeAg.farm, a site devoted to sharing knowledge and experience among farmers. "It helps me push boundaries on what's possible," he says.

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**CORN
ACTION**

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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G: NO-TILL IRRIGATED

ALABAMA

Steve Tate Meridianville, AL	273.8373	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	—	36000	—	—	295/80/210	John Deere DB60 John Deere 680s
Stewart McGill Meridianville, AL	270.7379	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	—	36000	—	Atrazine 4L Cinch ATZ	295/80/210	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680
Jeff Tate Meridianville, AL	267.0157	DEKALB DKC67-44	VT2P	—	36000	—	—	295/80/210	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680

ARKANSAS

Gregg Garner Lake City, AR	289.7026	Dyna-Gro D57CC51	CONV	—	38000	—	—	280/54/130	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S790
Terry Smith Paragould, AR	266.1069	DEKALB DKC65-99	Trecepta	—	34000	—	Atrazine 4L Corvus	300/80/60	John Deere 1720 CCS John Deere S670
Clay Smith Paragould, AR	245.7563	DEKALB DKC67-44	VT2P	—	34000	—	Acuron	250/100/0	John Deere 1720 CCS John Deere S670

DELAWARE

Gary Ockels Milton, DE	278.8221	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	39000	—	—	200/0/0	Case IH 1255 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH Axial-Flow 7120
Mark Collins Laurel, DE	257.2932	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	35500	Capture LFR	Atrazine 4L Corvus	330/35/250	Harvest International Ultra Plant Series 40 Case IH Axial-Flow 7120

FLORIDA

Dusty Cone Jennings, FL	261.8016	DEKALB DKC62-08	SS	poncho+votivo	35650	—	—	285/115/330	Monosem NG Plus John Deere 9570 STS
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GEORGIA

Kobi Powers Baxley, GA	206.3283	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	—	28000	—	—	200/32/168	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/Case IH 7120
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IOWA

Roy Folkerts Inwood, IA	285.0715	Pioneer P1185Q	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	—	Harness Xtra	Headline AMP	325/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9560 STS
Colby Winter Lake City, IA	280.6242	Pioneer P1366Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	—	Atrazine 4L, Bicep II Gramoxone Inteon Resolve Q+Roundup	220/3/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S780	
Todd Folkerts Inwood, IA	280.5726	Pioneer P1185Q	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	—	Atrazine 4F Roundup PowerMax	325/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9560 STS	

ILLINOIS

Dan Luepkes Chana, IL	310.4980	AgriGold A641-06VT2RIB	STXRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35000	—	—	280/120/180	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770 STS
David Luepkes Oregon, IL	303.9185	AgriGold A6579 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34500	—	—	320/150/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770 STS
Cameron McClure Saint Francisville, IL	291.4591	AgriGold A6544 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Poncho 500	34000	—	Abundit Extra Atrazine 4L Liberty, Resicore	0/0/0	Kinze 3600 Case IH 8010

INDIANA

Craig Williams Oaktown, IN	293.8288	Pioneer P1359AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	—	Atrazine 4L, Realm Q Roundup PowerMax	250/150/200	John Deere 1770 Conservation John Deere 9660 STS
Jerry Wischmeier Brownstown, IN	290.1895	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35000	—	—	280/100/215	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S660
Ben Thompson Seymour, IN	289.9274	Stewart Seeds 16DP310	VT2PRO	Poncho 500	35500	—	—	257/57/82	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680

KANSAS

Harold Koster Hoxie, KS	275.6867	Pioneer P1366AML™	AML,LL,RR2	Poncho 250 +Lumialza	30000	—	—	200/0/0	Case IH 1200 Case IH 1680
Terry & Dayton Menold Hiawatha, KS	273.1430	Pioneer P1572AM™	AM,LL,RR2	—	34000	—	—	0/0/0	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9870

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
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G: NO-TILL IRRIGATED

Grant Kerschen Turon, KS	231.2803	Pioneer P2089AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	32000	Onager	Resolve Q Roundup	–	240/30/30	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9760
KENTUCKY										
Paul Howlett Glendale, KY	282.4740	Dyna-Gro D55VC80	VT2P	Acceleron	31000	–	–	–	300/60/75	Kinze 2000 John Deere 9410
Kyle Dixon Fulton, KY	279.8944	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Elite 1250	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	Kinze 4900 Case IH 8250
Meredith Halcomb Adairville, KY	278.0900	Pioneer P1870†	CONV	PPST 250	34000	–	–	–	300/145/100	John Deere DB60 John Deere S770
LOUISIANA										
Josh Ward Winnsboro, LA	231.5566	Pioneer P1077YHR	YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2	–	35500	Sniper	Armezon, Atrazine 4L Callisto, Mad Dog Stalwart	Trivapro	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9670
MASSACHUSETTS										
Gene Kosinski Westfield, MA	308.5152	Channel 198-17VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	39500	–	–	–	360/40/170	Kinze 2500 Case IH 8230
MARYLAND										
Grant Smith Keyser, WV	296.5946	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	38000	–	–	–	280/50/250	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP/John Deere S670
Bruce Bartz Denton, MD	278.1959	DEKALB DKC62-53RIB	VT2PRIB	–	40000	–	–	–	275/35/400	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9870 STS
Dan Dulin Queen Anne, MD	232.9054	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Capture +Poncho 250	35000	–	2,4-D LV6, Atrazine 4L Durango DMA Resicore, Surpass EC	–	200/30/100	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 670
MICHIGAN										
Ryan Drozd Allegan, MI	271.7443	Pioneer P0806AM™	AM,LL,RR2	lumialza, invigor8	36000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680
Doug Myers Marshall, MI	270.3316	Pioneer P0843AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	35900	–	–	–	220/60/100	White 9222 Flex Frame John Deere S680
Ron King White Pigeon, MI	261.9895	Golden Harvest G07F23-3111	3111	Avicta	35000	–	Degree Xtra	–	280/50/200	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum/John Deere 9750
MINNESOTA										
Jenna Sobek Winona, MN	273.5467	DEKALB DKC62-20RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	–	–	–	250/48/120	Kinze 3600 Case IH Axial-Flow 5088
MISSISSIPPI										
Philip Good Macon, MS	243.7918	DEKALB DKC62-53RIB	VT2PRIB	Poncho 250	36000	–	–	–	230/0/110	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S770
Tyler Huerkamp Macon, MS	226.0867	Pioneer P1870R	RR2	Cruiser 250	36000	–	–	–	260/0/150	John Deere 1700 MaxEmergePlus Vacuum/Claas Lexion 470R
MONTANA										
Lane Lowell Park City, MT	231.2027	Pioneer P9188AMXT™†	AMXT,LL,RR2	–	40000	–	Atrazine, Capreno Roundup PowerMax	Quilt Xcel	250/30/38	John Deere 7300 John Deere 9600
Daniel Vogel Ballantine, MT	206.0777	Pioneer P9899AMXT™	AMXT,LL,RR2	–	40000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1720 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere 9650 STS
Scott Ziebarth Kinsey, MT	189.6403	Pioneer P9211AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	32000	–	Lumax	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1700 Integral Rigid John Deere 7720 Titan 2
NORTH CAROLINA										
Kevin Matthews East Bend, NC	283.9672	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2	Invigor8	30000	–	–	–	300/140/260	John Deere DB44 John Deere S680
Lucas Richard Newton, NC	263.8411	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Poncho 1250	36000	–	–	–	300/100/150	John Deere 1790 CCS Claas Lexion 8600
Charles Grantham Raleigh, NC	256.0486	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	ELT500	33000	–	–	–	267/112/182	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9770 STS

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester	
G: NO-TILL IRRIGATED										
NORTH DAKOTA										
Bobby Frautenberg Lamoure, ND	276.8657	DEKALB DKC44-80RIB	VT2PRIB	Amplify D +Poncho	38500	-	-	-	220/156/180	John Deere DB66 Case IH 9230
NEBRASKA										
Blake Johnson Holdrege, NE	322.8746	Pioneer P1138AML™	AML,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	-	-	260/45/0	Planterworx Custom Claas Lexion 580
Grady Johnson Holdrege, NE	317.3537	Pioneer P1138AML™	AML,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	Corvus	-	260/45/0	Planterworx Custom Claas Lexion 580
Brenton Hopkins Rogers, NE	305.1931	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	35000	-	Degree Xtra Roundup	Delaro	280/60/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH 7240
OHIO										
Scott Haerr Springfield, OH	294.3297	Pioneer P0720AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	34500	-	-	-	300/90/60	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Early Riser/John Deere S780
Catherine Kelbley Fostoria, OH	274.1839	AgriGold A6499 STXRIB	STXRIB	-	35500	-	AAtrex 4L, Roundup PowerMax, Volley ATZ	Fortix	0/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680
PENNSYLVANIA										
Karl Dirks Mount Joy, PA	294.0827	DEKALB DKC62-53RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	40000	-	-	-	300/0/100	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S660
Ernest Mast Morgantown, PA	273.2591	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	34500	-	-	-	290/29/285	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum John Deere 9750 STS
SOUTH CAROLINA										
Patrick Burch Lake City, SC	285.1478	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	-	36000	-	-	-	270/100/250	John Deere 1720 CCS Case IH 7240
Daniel T. Garrick Cope, SC	260.5809	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Amplify L +Poncho 250	33500	-	Lexar+Roundup	-	300/100/250	John Deere 1705 Case IH 7240
Daniel H. Garrick Cope, SC	252.9605	AgriGold A648-54STX	STX	Amplify L +Poncho 250	33000	-	Callisto+Roundup Harness Xtra	Headline AMP	300/100/250	John Deere 1705 Case IH 7240
SOUTH DAKOTA										
Steve Breeding Chamberlain, SD	294.4193	Channel 213-19VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	33000	-	-	-	255/120/75	John Deere DB60 John Deere S670
TENNESSEE										
Terry Taylor Rives, TN	280.8737	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	VOTIVO	36000	-	Armezon Pro Roundup PowerMax Verdict, Zidua	Headline AMP	300/200/200	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680
Jeremy Hopper Tiptonville, TN	242.5783	AgriGold A6544 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33750	-	Capreno	Delaro	0/0/0	John Deere DB60 Case IH 8120
Jerry White McKenzie, TN	209.9982	Pioneer P1656WAM™	AM,LL,RR2	Lumivia	30000	-	Roundup PowerMax Status	-	240/80/80	Kinze 3600 John Deere S670
VIRGINIA										
JR Newcomb Hanover, VA	279.4428	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	36000	Brigade 2EC Fastac	Armezon Pro Atrazine 4L Roundup PowerMax	Headline AMP	300/50/300	Kinze 3600 Case IH 8240
Robert Newcomb Hanover, VA	272.3945	Pioneer P1903YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	34000	Bifenthrin 2EC	Armezon Pro Atrazine 4L, Glyphosate	-	300/50/300	Kinze 3600 Case IH 8240
Joseph Stephenson Wakefield, VA	270.3079	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	38000	Sniper	Laudis Roundup, Salvo	Headline AMP	330/60/200	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus Case IH Axial-Flow 8120
WASHINGTON										
Shawn Clausen Warden, WA	276.2537	DEKALB DKC49-72RIB	SSRIB	-	37000	-	Acuron	-	250/0/0	John Deere 1720 John Deere S680
WISCONSIN										
Tim Gaffron Twin Lakes, WI	268.9966	Pioneer P0720Q™	Q,LL,RR2	-	37500	-	-	-	300/0/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/Claas Lexion 740
WEST VIRGINIA										
Todd Widmyer Charles Town, WV	234.1725	Pioneer P1298AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	Pilot 15G	2,4-D Ester Dual II, Durango	Priaxor	200/90/90	John Deere 1770 Conservation Case IH 1660

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*Internal testing of X9 1100 Combine. ** Internal comparison between X9 1100 and S790 Combines, based on field conditions, per unit harvested. 1. Semi-trailer trucks with 993-bushel capacity. Pre-production model shown. Specifications and design subject to change.



First Place



BEN KRON
Evansville, IN

367.3214 bu./acre
LG Seeds LG62C35VT2RIB
Population: 39,000
Harvester: New Holland CR 7090

SUPERVISORS

Janet Ault: County Executive Director, FSA
Mike Wassmer: Vo Ag Instructor,
North Posey High School

A newcomer to the national yield contest winner's circle, Ben Kron decided to try several ideas in 2020 to see what might work following a second-place state finish last year. "We were willing to experiment and were also blessed with a good growing season," he says.

Cool, wet weather initially kept him out of the field, but Kron planted in mid-May, just as the weather warmed up. The delay ended up being good news for pollination. His earlier corn yields were dinged by two weeks of heat during the crucial period. However, temperatures cooled enough when the contest field entered pollination to prevent any negative impact to yield.

Strip-till was a new practice for Kron, so he relied on representatives from Banded Ag, LLC and LandLuvr to learn how to maximize use of the strip-till bar.

Similarly, Kron says he's still on a learning curve with sprinkler irrigation, even though he has used it for several years. This year he tried irrigating more often at lower irrigation amounts, as well as applying water at night to cool the crop. For much of the season, he applied two- to three-tenths of water multiple times per week (depending on rainfall) for a month rather than three-quarters of an inch weekly.

Kron adjusted his management plan to push the new 112-day LG Seeds LG62C35VT2RIB hybrid. He has had good success with LG Seeds products in the past and was confident he could

maximize yields, given the hybrid's high marks for good drought tolerance, standability and stay green qualities. "We were tempted to try a 40,000 population to achieve 400-bushel corn, but decided to dial it back to 39,000," he says. "We are willing to push it higher next year and see what happens."

His crop adviser from Teva Corp. suggested upping the rates for nutrients throughout the season, from the starter fertilizer applied with the planter through Y-Drops and fertigation. Kron applied a season total of 375 units of nitrogen. His soil runs high on phosphorus so he added five pounds of zinc for balance. He upped the sulfur rate to 40 pounds per acre, adding that he believes it contributed to higher yields. Micronutrients were also applied with the starter fertilizer.

"The only challenge we really had was waterhemp. Two applications of Resicore got it under control," says Kron. "Overall, we really had an excellent year."

Key To High Yields

- Make regular trips to the field to scout and observe how products are working.
- Be open to try something new and make adjustments if needed.
- Use biologicals through the planter to help enhance the soil.

Second Place

JOHN PANOWICZ
Cairo, NE

330.8272 bu./acre
Pioneer P1828AM
Population: 36,000
Harvester: Case IH 7240

John Panowicz credits his second-place finish in this class to data-driven decisions. He tests and makes timely applications of the appropriate inputs so the crop can flourish in nutritive soils. "My focus is soil health. I try and ramp up the biologicals and make nutrients available to the crop before plants even know they are needed," he says.

To anticipate nutrient requirements, Panowicz tissue tests corn every week from V3-R4 to check nutrient levels and make adjustments. He also does two, in-season soil tests.

Panowicz planted 118-day Pioneer P1828AM on April 27 under ideal planting conditions with 50 GDUs (Growing Degree Units) accumulated and a favorable seven-day forecast. He chose the hybrid for its high yield potential and planted in a protected area with furrow irrigation.

His multi-faceted fertility program included 250 units of nitrogen per acre, along with phosphorus, potassium, zinc, boron and Genesis Ag biologicals. He used 2x2x2 nutrient placement at planting and an in-furrow application of a zinc, sugar and biological cocktail. Panowicz applied nitrogen in five passes: at 350 GDUs, Y-Drop at 700 GDUs, a pass at 1,050 GDUs, Y-Drop at 1,320 GDUs and final pass at 1,500 GDUs.

"I need to try something different every year, I am always tweaking application timings and trying something different with products," he says. "Pay attention to detail. Scout, tissue and soil test and build a database that will improve your soil health for the future."

SUPERVISORS

Matt Mundorf:
Ag Loan Officer,
State Bank of Hildreth

Kerwin Stewart:
Crop Adjustor

Third Place

HUNTER HOOPER
Brownsville, TN

327.0317 bu./acre
DEKALB DKC66-18
Population: 40,000
Harvester: John Deere S780

Hunter Hooper tinkers with timing, plant population and nitrogen to get 300-plus bushel corn yields. A seven-time state winner, 2020 was the first time he cracked into the national rankings with the 116-day DEKALB DKC66-18 hybrid treated with Poncho 500.

"We were behind out of the gate. I like to plant in mid- to late-April, but we couldn't plant until May 2," he says. "This was our first year using a John Deere ExactEmerge planter and seed spacing was better than ever running at 8.5 miles per hour."

Based on test plot results, Hooper planted 40,000 seeds/acre rather than 36,000. He pushed fertilizer rates to achieve a higher yield response. He has experimented with finding the sweet spot combination of plant population and nitrogen. "We tried 400-500 units of nitrogen before and it's just too much," he says. "This year, 350 units was right. At planting, we applied 100 units of nitrogen with phosphorus and potassium, along with boron, sulfur and zinc."

Hooper applied 120 units of nitrogen over-the-top on six- to 8-inch tall corn. Then, beginning when corn was about waist high, he applied 25 units through pivot irrigation five different times as weather allowed with the last application at brown silk. "We may have found the limit and need to think outside of the box for next year," he says.

SUPERVISORS

Tim Stokely: Ag Loan Officer,
Insouth Bank

Betsy Waddell: Crop
Insurance Agent, West
Tennessee Crop Insurance

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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H: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED

ALABAMA

Stuart Sanderson Madison, AL	320.0824	Pioneer P1870AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	30400	–	Bicep II Magnum Clarity, Verdict	–	320/60/60	John Deere 1795 John Deere S690
Will Curtis Troy, AL	314.2504	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	–	42000	–	2,4-D, AAtrex Buccaneer Gramoxone, Laudis	Delaro	240/0/200	John Deere 1705 Twin Row John Deere S690
Myron Johnson Headland, AL	277.2595	DEKALB DKC62-08	SS	Aveo, Ascend	34000	Oberon 4SC	Roundup+Status	Stratego YLD	250/250/250	John Deere 7300 MaxEmerge 2 John Deere 9660 STS

ARKANSAS

Michael Morgan Greenway, AR	280.7939	AgriGold A6659 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Poncho 500	33000	Steward SC	Abundit Extra Atrazine, DiFlexx FullTime, Resicore	Trivapro	0/0/0	John Deere 1725 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S780
Len Nall Lake City, AR	278.7836	Dyna-Gro D57CC51	CONV	–	38000	–	Halex GT	–	280/40/90	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S790
Aaron Garner Lake City, AR	267.7013	Dyna-Gro D57CC51	CONV	–	38000	–	AAtrex, Laudis TripleFLEX	–	280/68/132	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S790

ARIZONA

Shaun Thompson Willcox, AZ	264.0074	Pioneer P1464AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	33500	–	–	–	320/70/0	John Deere 7200 Case IH 6140
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CALIFORNIA

Robert Sproat Live Oak, CA	315.9309	LG Seeds LG5701VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	–	–	–	325/150/215	Monosem NG Plus 4 Case IH 1680
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COLORADO

Byron Weathers Yuma, CO	276.5786	Channel 213-93STXRIB	SSRIB	Amplify D	33000	–	–	–	280/20/20	Case IH 1230 Stackbar Early Riser/Case IH Axial-Flow 9120
Trevor Birky Fort Morgan, CO	246.7435	DEKALB DKC54-64RIB	SSRIB	–	36000	–	Acuron, DiFlexx Roundup	Quilt Xcel	250/100/100	Case IH 1250 Case IH 7120
Brian Hornung Stratton, CO	218.6743	Pioneer P0622AML™	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	31000	–	–	–	220/60/10	John Deere 1775NT New Holland CR8090

FLORIDA

Craig Bishop Marianna, FL	290.6147	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	–	Lexar	Approch Prima	400/120/200	Monosem NG Plus 4 John Deere S660
Ethan Cone Jennings, FL	276.7341	DEKALB DKC62-08	SS	poncho+votivo	35704	–	–	–	285/100/310	Monosem MS Double Row John Deere 9570 STS
Larry Ford Greenwood, FL	271.9816	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Dynasty+Poncho	34000	–	Atrazine, DiFlexx Roundup, TripleFLEX	–	300/125/250	John Deere 1720 CCS Stack-Fold/Case IH 2588

GEORGIA

James Hitchcock Tennille, GA	318.8140	DEKALB DKC62-06	CONV	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36035	–	2,4-D LV6, Atrazine 4L Generic Roundup, Resicore	–	350/180/350	John Deere 1725 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S780
Kyle Phillips Fitzgerald, GA	262.8121	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Poncho 250	33000	–	–	–	320/0/0	John Deere 7300 MaxEmerge 2 Case IH 2166
Kent & Kerwin Hege Millen, GA	258.0425	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	–	34000	Lambda-Cy	Array, Bellum Harness Roundup WeatherMax	Headline	250/6/125	John Deere 1705 John Deere 9600

IDAHO

Kent Frisch Melba, ID	312.4595	Pioneer P0157AMX™	AMX,LL,RR2	Acceleron +Poncho 250	42000	–	Callisto, Roundup PowerMax, TripleFLEX	Stratego YLD	240/50/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Plus/John Deere S670
Billy Wolfe Grand View, ID	288.3432	Pioneer P0075Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Cruiser+Raxil	42000	–	–	–	300/25/0	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7230

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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H: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED

ILLINOIS

Greg McClure Saint Francisville, IL	292.6758	AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Poncho 500	35000	-	Abundit Extra, Atrazine 4L Liberty, Resicore	-	0/0/0	Kinze 3600 Case IH 8010
Jim Daehler Chadwick, IL	278.1893	DEKALB DKC64-35RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36000	-	Bicep	-	250/200/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Claas Lexion 740
Mike Bundy Carman, IL	269.3215	Pioneer P1099Q	Q,LL,RR2	Pioneer Seed Treatment	33000	-	Roundup PowerMax Status	-	280/110/80	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9670 STS

INDIANA

Ben Kron Evansville, IN	367.3214	LG Seeds LG62C35VT2RIB	VT2RIB	-	38000	-	Resicore	-	375/100/250	White 8824 New Holland CR7090
Alan Gohn Rochester, IN	313.6732	Pioneer P1359AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	34200	-	SureStart	-	300/25/120	John Deere 1775NT John Deere 1775NT
Brooks Cardinal Oaktown, IN	310.5510	AgriGold A6499STX	STX	Poncho 500	36000	-	Barrage HF, Resicore Simazat 4L, Vision	-	250/250/250	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S670

KANSAS

Ryan Jagels Garden City, KS	312.5503	Pioneer P1108Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	Zeal	Acuron Balance Flexx Cornerstone, Valor	Trivapro	275/0/0	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus New Holland CR8090
Thad Arganbright Waterville, KS	282.6574	Pioneer P1828AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	29000	-	Resicore Surpass	-	210/30/0	Kinze 3660 Case IH 7130
David Walker Johnson, KS	282.2941	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	C250ist+ L250ist+RAX/RAN	29000	-	-	-	250/100/0	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S670

KENTUCKY

Neal Ballance Bowling Green, KY	276.8192	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	-	Resicore	-	230/92/90	John Deere DB90 John Deere S790
Mark Thomas Elizabethtown, KY	273.4152	AgriGold A648-54STX	STX	awaken	35000	-	Atrazine+Roundup Roundup PowerMax, Verdict	-	300/60/70	Kinze 3500 Case IH 7240
Russel Schwenke Union, KY	271.3535	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	32200	-	-	-	104/96/120	Kinze 3650 Case IH 6140

LOUISIANA

Steve Hargis Vick, LA	290.2117	Pioneer P2042VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL	Cruiser	38500	-	-	-	390/250/220	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S690
Billy Lee Tallulah, LA	273.1661	Pioneer P1506YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Cruiser	36000	-	Atrazine Halex	-	250/75/60	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S780
Jennifer Moroni Winnsboro, LA	253.4056	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	avipel, poncho 250	32500	-	Breakfree ATZ Lite Roundup PowerMax	-	250/60/80	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670

MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Henry Southampton, MA	225.1015	Channel 199-29STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	37200	-	-	-	250/25/140	Kinze 2500 Case IH 8230
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MARYLAND

Brian Tull Seaford, DE	277.7971	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	-	-	-	295/30/150	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 7240
Christopher Davis Galena, MD	274.4015	Pioneer P1506AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	34000	-	-	-	0/0/0	Kinze 3660 Case IH 8230
Allen Davis Galena, MD	262.4674	Pioneer P1213AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	-	-	-	0/0/0	Kinze 3660 Case IH 8230

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
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H: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED

MICHIGAN

T Jon Drozd Allegan, MI	307.5574	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	invigor8, poncho 1250	37000	-	-	-	0/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S680
Marshall Landis Schoolcraft, MI	289.5291	DEKALB DKC61-40RIB	SSRIB	-	34000	-	Harness TripleFLEX	Priaxor	250/100/75	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S790
J Clover Ionia, MI	284.9052	DEKALB DKC54-64RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	35650	-	-	-	305/0/250	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680

MINNESOTA

Deanna Sobeck Winona, MN	277.2812	DEKALB DKC62-20RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	37500	-	Diablo, Roundup PowerMax, Volley ATZ	Fortix	250/48/120	Kinze 3660 Case IH Axial-Flow 5088
Joseph Hopkins Buffalo, MN	272.9245	Pioneer P0720Q™	Q,LL,RR2	PPST 250	38000	-	-	-	245/45/145	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Case IH 8120
Roger Huhn Litchfield, MN	269.7562	Pioneer P0589AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	-	-	190/20/110	Case IH 1245 Pivot-Transport Early Riser/Claas Lexion 760

MISSOURI

Craig Sutter Maywood, MO	318.3900	Pioneer P1197	CONV	Lumivia	38000	-	-	-	320/90/120	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680
Stephen Sutter Muscatine, IA	298.3191	Pioneer P1197	CONV	Lumivia	38000	-	-	-	320/90/120	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680
Chad Fullerton Dexter, MO	293.3309	AgriGold A6659 VT2PRO	VT2PRO	Poncho 500	33000	-	-	-	300/150/100	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S680

MISSISSIPPI

Preston Arrington Inverness, MS	265.9322	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	PPST 250	36000	Kendo	AAtrex 4L, Acuron Gly Star Plus, Princep 4L	Miravis	230/120/220	John Deere 1720 John Deere S670
Christian Good Macon, MS	262.6717	DEKALB DKC62-53RIB	VT2PRIB	Poncho 250	36000	-	-	-	230/0/110	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S770
Scott Hunter Glen Allan, MS	260.7267	Pioneer P2089YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	PPST 250	36000	-	-	-	200/100/200	John Deere 1720 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S790

MONTANA

Eric Lowell Park City, MT	257.7085	Pioneer P8989AMXT™	AMXT,LL,RR2	-	40000	Arctic	AAtrex, AMS, Corvus Laudis, Roundup PowerMax	-	250/30/40	John Deere 7100 John Deere 9600
Darren Miller Billings, MT	221.6085	DEKALB DKC45-65RIB	SSRIB	-	36000	-	-	-	315/60/20	John Deere 7300 MaxEmerge 2 John Deere 9650 STS

NORTH CAROLINA

Adrian Locklear Maxton, NC	272.2305	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	31000	-	-	-	310/120/170	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S680
Henry Locklear Maxton, NC	253.4710	DEKALB DKC65-20	DG-VT2P	Poncho 1250+VOTIVO	31000	-	-	-	310/120/170	John Deere 1725 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S680
John Sykes Conway, NC	245.2525	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	Poncho 250	31000	-	-	-	250/17/230	Case IH 1200 Case IH 1440

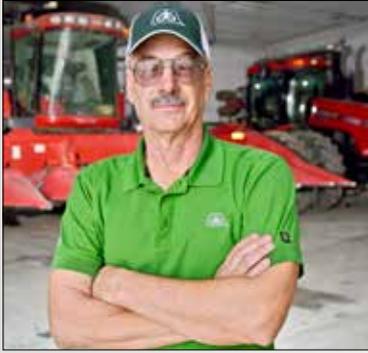
NORTH DAKOTA

James Frauenberg LaMoure, ND	286.5625	DEKALB DKC45-66RIB	VT2PRIB	Amplify D +Poncho	38500	-	-	-	230/156/180	John Deere DB66 Case IH 9230
Justin Quandt Oakes, ND	254.7762	Pioneer P0046AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	31000	-	-	-	250/30/30	White 9824 Claas Lexion 760

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
H: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED										
Travis Myers Colfax, ND	210.8666	AgriGold A627-83VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Amplify	34000	-	2,4-D+Atrazine	-	200/50/100	White 9824 Case IH 8240
NEBRASKA										
John Panowicz Cairo, NE	330.8272	Pioneer P1828AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	35000	-	Acuron, Gramoxone Sharpen	-	250/40/30	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7240
Scott Ford Bertrand, NE	323.8899	Pioneer P1572AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Amplify L	39000	-	-	-	350/0/0	John Deere DB60 John Deere S780
Randy Wadas North Loup, NE	314.9066	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	32000	-	-	-	230/0/0	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S680
NEW JERSEY										
Carly Santini Stewartsville, NJ	303.8641	Pioneer P1213AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	-	Roundup WeatherMax	-	300/50/100	John Deere 1795 John Deere S770
Michelle Doyle Newfield, NJ	256.8676	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Dekalb	38000	-	-	-	250/100/100	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere S670
Tim Doyle Clayton, NJ	252.3045	Hefty Seed H6524	SS	hefty complete	38000	-	-	-	200/100/100	John Deere 1790 John Deere S670
NEW YORK										
Thomas Jeffres Wyoming, NY	286.6724	Pioneer P0843AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	-	2,4-D LV6, Dicamba Durango, FulTime, Lexar	-	83/13/3	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8230
Robert Pawlowski Verona, NY	231.2110	Channel 201-67STXRIB	STXRIB	Amplify D	34000	-	-	-	250/50/100	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere 9770
OHIO										
Justin Haerr Springfield, OH	305.9341	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	33500	-	-	-	240/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S780
OKLAHOMA										
Austin Sage Texline, TX	305.0560	Pioneer P1572AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Lumivia	32000	-	Abundit Extra Resicore, Status	-	300/50/10	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670
Mindy Pfannstiel Dalhart, TX	285.2317	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	30000	-	-	-	300/45/20	John Deere 1770 Drawn CCS MaxEmerge/John Deere S670
Fred Fischer Hooker, OK	282.7843	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	-	30100	-	-	-	0/0/0	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S670
OREGON										
Nolan Mills Boardman, OR	267.4469	Pioneer P1089AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser +Poncho 250	35000	-	-	-	185/19/26	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/John Deere S680
Dean Harris Umatilla, OR	260.3020	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser 250/Raxil	38272	-	-	-	272/1/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/John Deere S680
PENNSYLVANIA										
Eric Charles Lancaster, PA	288.6110	DEKALB DKC62-52RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	37000	Capture LFR	Atrazine+Impact Harness	-	330/50/180	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8010
SOUTH CAROLINA										
Russ Jameson Orangeburg, SC	307.3770	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Amplify L +Poncho 250	38300	-	Generic Roundup Status, Verdict	-	300/35/100	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7140
Ray Jameson Orangeburg, SC	298.9215	Pioneer P1197YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Amplify +Poncho 250	39500	-	-	-	300/35/100	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7140
Tate Jameson Orangeburg, SC	288.8665	Pioneer P2089YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Amplify L +Poncho 250	39200	-	-	-	300/35/100	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7140

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
H: STRIP-TILL, MINIMUM-TILL, MULCH-TILL, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED										
SOUTH DAKOTA										
Darren Mosel Chamberlain, SD	303.0467	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Lumivia	30850	-	-	-	250/55/20	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680
Tyler and Jerry Poeschl Yankton, SD	278.9184	Pioneer P1366AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	32500	-	-	-	240/80/60	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680
Scott & Tammy Slepikas Huron, SD	261.0990	Pioneer P0339Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	32000	-	-	-	200/150/60	Case IH 1200 Pivot Case IH Axial-Flow 7120
TENNESSEE										
Hunter Hooper Brownsville, TN	327.0317	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Poncho 500	39000	-	-	-	350/90/150	John Deere 1795 John Deere S780
TEXAS										
Jody Bezner Texline, TX	286.7418	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	32000	-	-	-	300/50/10	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S670
Chandler Preston Dumas, TX	286.1062	Pioneer P1366AML™	AML,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	Acuron Roundup	-	0/0/0	John Deere 7300 Vertical-Fold MaxEmerge 2/John Deere S680
UTAH										
Ross Summers Tremonton, UT	277.4800	DEKALB DKC51-92RIB	VT2PRIB	-	35000	-	Capreno, Degree Xtra Infantry 4L, Roundup	Delaro	270/50/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S680
Lynn Summers Tremonton, UT	250.5844	DEKALB DKC52-68RIB	VT2PRIB	-	36000	Tombstone	Callisto, Degree Xtra Roundup PowerMax	Quilt Xcel Trivapro	280/50/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S680
Lee Summers Tremonton, UT	240.9919	DEKALB DKC49-72RIB	SSRIB	-	34000	-	-	-	270/50/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S680
VIRGINIA										
Anita Heatwole McGaheysville, VA	269.6996	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	35000	-	-	-	150/0/100	Great Plains PL1230 New Holland CR8090
LaVonne Heatwole McGaheysville, VA	266.9300	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	35000	-	2,4-D LV6, Atrazine Leadoff, Realm Q Roundup PowerMax	Approch Prima	150/0/100	Great Plains PL1230 New Holland CR8090
Gerald Heatwole McGaheysville, VA	248.9229	Pioneer P1283AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	-	35000	-	-	-	150/0/100	Great Plains PL1230 New Holland CR8090
VERMONT										
Caroline Pinto West Rutland, VT	215.4440	DEKALB DKC45-66RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32500	-	Acuron, Atrazine 4L Roundup PowerMax	-	160/30/50	John Deere 1750 Drawn Conservation/Case IH 2388
WASHINGTON										
Aaron Golladay Warden, WA	297.0330	Pioneer P9998R	RR2	-	38000	-	-	-	250/0/0	John Deere 1720 John Deere S680
WISCONSIN										
Matt & Gene Larsen Baraboo, WI	276.7952	DEKALB DKC54-64RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	-	-	-	220/69/120	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770 STS
WEST VIRGINIA										
Ann Widmyer Charles Town, WV	236.3353	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	Besiege	Atrazine 90 DF Steadfast Q	Trivapro	200/90/90	John Deere 1770 Conservation Case IH 1660
WYOMING										
Rick Cook Lingle, WY	211.8490	Pioneer P0339Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	36000	-	-	-	200/100/50	John Deere 1760 Conservation John Deere 9660 STS
Joe Speckner Lingle, WY	210.5437	Pioneer P0339Q™	Q,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	-	-	250/100/50	Case IH 1230 Stackbar Early Riser/Case IH 8010

First Place



DON STALL
Charlotte, MI

476.9052 bu./acre
Pioneer P0720AM
Population: 48,500
Harvester: Case IH 8240

SUPERVISORS

Kelly Aiken: Ag Loan Officer,
GreenStone FCS

Stacy Stinson: Ag Loan Officer,
GreenStone FCS

The man knows how to grow high-yield corn, period. With a yield of nearly 477 bu./acre in 2020, Don Stall has now earned a first-place award in this class three out of the last four years.

To build this year's winning entry, Stall shaped his game plan around basic management practices that have served him well for more than a decade. Ahead of planting, he pulled his 16-row, Case IH 1250 planter into the shop for a thorough once-over. "We want the planter to be in tip-top shape on day one," he says. "Our goal is to get that seed into the ground at the right depth and spaced just right so we end up with a nice even stand. This is the most important part of the season. If you don't get it done right, you're sacrificing yield right out of the gate. You can't make up for that later on."

Extremely cold spring temperatures kept Stall from planting the contest field as early as he would have liked. "In early May, we had daytime highs in the high 30s and lower 40s, about 25 degrees below normal," he says. "We weren't able to plant until May 3."

On May 15, it started raining. Over the next week, five inches of rain fell. "The crop took three weeks to emerge," he notes. "The stand looked pretty good. It was just late."

In his fertility program, Stall used weekly tissue sample results to determine timing and rates for running 28 percent nitrogen onto the

crop. At V3, he side-dressed with 50 gallons per acre, then followed up with another side-dressing of 20 gallons per acre. At V9 and V12, he side-dressed again with 50 gallons each time. "Those rates were higher than they have been in recent years," he says. "We had a lot of heat in June and July, and the corn was growing unbelievably fast. We wanted to make sure we were staying ahead of the crop's nutrient needs."

Throughout the season, Stall walked the contest field at least once a week to check on disease and insect pressure, plant health, signs of nutrient deficiencies and more. His Pioneer agronomist also flew a drone over the field several times during the season. "The drone gives you a different perspective of what's going on and helps you spot things that you can't necessarily see when you're walking," he says. "When you're after a high yield, scouting on a regular basis is tremendously important. You have to stay ahead of the game."

Key To High Yields

- Prepare the planter ahead of the season.
- Make nutrients available when they're needed.
- Scout early, often and thoroughly.

Second Place

GEORGE ANDREW
Evansville, WI

324.7783 bu./acre
Pioneer P0720Q
Population: 42,500
Harvester: John Deere S670

George Andrew felt like he was a "truly blessed" man on his way to a yield of nearly 325 bu./acre and a second-place finish in this class. "We had ideal growing conditions all the way through," says Andrew, who is making his first appearance in the contest winner's circle. "We had great sunshine, plenty of heat and all the water we needed. We really couldn't have asked for anything more."

To take full advantage of the favorable weather, Andrew focused on measures aimed at keeping plants as healthy as possible all the way through the growing season. That included putting a starter fertilizer into the furrow at planting. "It helps plants come out of the ground healthy enough to handle cold and wet conditions," he says.

Andrew also closely monitored moisture levels in his contest field all season long. "I ran the center pivot more this year than I ever have. I'd turn it on even if there was rain in the forecast. You have to do everything you can to reduce stress on the plant. You can't ever let the crop run short on moisture."

He used a helicopter to make a single application of the fungicide, Approach Prima, just after tassel. "The fungicide keeps diseases in check," Andrew says. "But it also keeps leaves and stalks greener longer into the season. It may be the most critical thing you can do to keep plants healthy and build yield."

SUPERVISOR

Renee Johnson: Ag Loan Officer, Union Bank & Trust

Third Place

ASHTON PETERSON
Bertrand, NE

324.5989 bu./acre
Pioneer P1563AML
Population: 32,000
Harvester: John Deere 780

Ashton Peterson makes his first appearance in the contest winner's circle this year. His yield of 324 bu./acre qualifies for third-place honors in this class.

Extremely hot and dry weather conditions throughout a large part of the growing season posed a major challenge. "We were plenty wet coming out of the winter," he says. "We were able to plant on April 20 which is typical for us and the crop came out of the ground nice and even."

"But then we got into May, and it just quit raining," he continues. "We didn't see any more rain for the rest of the season. On top of that, it got hot and stayed that way."

Even so, timely irrigation via a center pivot, kept the contest field looking good all season long. "This year we put on about five more inches of water than we usually do," Ashton says. "But we never really worried about how the crop was doing."

Having the right hybrid — **Pioneer P1563AML** — in place also played a role. "This is the third year now that we've used it," he notes. "We like it mostly for yield. It's also a short plant so it stands better and leaves less residue out on the field after harvest to worry about the following year."

SUPERVISOR

Brent Samuelson: Ag Loan Officer, First State Bank

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED

ALABAMA

Chad Henderson Madison, AL	319.0791	Pioneer P2089VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	–	34500	–	–	–	320/40/30	John Deere 1795 John Deere S690
J Howard Hobbs Elkmont, AL	285.7938	DEKALB DKC65-20	DG-VT2P	Avicta	36000	–	–	–	250/0/0	John Deere 1795 John Deere S680
Seth More Aliceville, AL	262.9121	DEKALB DKC68-69	VT2P	Poncho 500	33800	–	AAtrax 4L, Keystone Status, Steadfast Q	–	300/64/117	John Deere 1720 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere S780

ARKANSAS

Lane Miles McGehee, AR	303.7724	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	33980	–	–	–	290/185/220	Monosem Twin Row John Deere S680
Matt Miles McGehee, AR	289.3490	DEKALB DKC65-99	Trecepta	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34321	–	–	–	290/185/220	Monosem Twin Row John Deere S680
Richard Blaylock Forrest City, AR	280.1500	Pioneer P1847VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	–	–	–	300/100/120	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S780

CALIFORNIA

Doug Ruble Visalia, CA	321.2522	Pioneer P1464AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	40000	–	–	–	400/60/80	White 5700 Case IH 2588
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COLORADO

Bryan Crites Avondale, CO	303.3819	DEKALB DKC61-41RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	33250	–	Atrazine Lexar+Roundup	–	275/35/0	Monosem NG Plus 4 Case IH 2388
Jerold Hasart Stratton, CO	293.0054	DEKALB DKC63-91RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	35000	–	–	–	268/20/0	John Deere 1720 Gleaner S78
Verdis Vieselmeyer Amherst, CO	280.2500	Pioneer P0622Q™*	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	36000	Steward SC	Resicore	Evito	240/90/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S770

DELAWARE

Michael Wicks Middletown, DE	260.7464	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	36500	–	SureStart	–	320/30/100	Kinze 3500 John Deere 9560 STS
B Mark Wilson Smyrna, DE	222.9955	Pioneer P1442AM™	AM,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	31550	–	–	–	220/60/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH 8230
Ben Wilson Smyrna, DE	222.7059	DEKALB DKC65-95RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	32600	–	–	–	220/60/150	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH 8230

FLORIDA

Gary Cone Jennings, FL	262.5143	DEKALB DKC62-08	SS	poncho+votivo	35463	–	Halex GT	Priaxor	280/90/330	Monosem NG Plus John Deere 9570
Jason Mills Live Oak, GA	219.9105	Pioneer P1662YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	poncho	33170	–	–	–	270/50/325	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/John Deere 9500

GEORGIA

Jonathan Hitchcock Tennille, GA	324.2869	DEKALB DKC62-06	CONV	Acceleron +Poncho 250	36128	–	Atrazine, Balance Flexx Roundup, Status	–	350/180/325	John Deere 1725 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S780
Jerry Heard Newton, GA	268.1302	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	32500	Zeal	–	–	325/130/230	John Deere 1725 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere S770
Littleton Wilder Pelham, GA	238.3231	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Lumivia	32000	–	Glyphosate Medal II ATZ	–	300/75/150	John Deere 7300 MaxEmerge 2 John Deere 9670 STS

	Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester
I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED										
IOWA										
Kim Dummermuth Elgin, IA	292.9058	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	–	DiFlexx, Outlook Roundup PowerMax	Trivapro	350/150/150	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9560 STS
Mark Schleisman Lake City, IA	286.0354	AgriGold A6572 STXRIB	STXRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34000	–	–	–	220/3/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S780
Kent Beebe Missouri Valley, IA	281.3231	Wyffels Hybrids W8266RIB	VT2P	Acceleron	33000	–	Barrage HF, Resicore Simazat 4L, Vision	–	226/52/0	Kinze 3600 Case IH 7120
IDAHO										
Mike Moyle Star, ID	319.4608	Pioneer P0046AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	40000	–	Laudis, Medal Roundup PowerMax	–	337/80/60	Monosem MS Single Row John Deere 9600
Michael Potucek King Hill, ID	296.8758	Pioneer P0157R	RR2, AQ	Poncho 1250	42000	Hero Sniper	AMS, Callisto, Harness Xtra, Roundup PowerMax	Trivapro	352/50/50	John Deere 1730 John Deere S670
Jared Zito Hammett, ID	295.7802	Pioneer P0157AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	39000	–	–	–	178/55/0	John Deere 1730 Case IH 7230
ILLINOIS										
Phillip Friedrich Green Valley, IL	306.1391	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	37000	–	–	–	320/45/75	John Deere DB66 John Deere 770
Brigitte Young Erie, IL	303.7632	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	33500	–	Halex GT	–	180/140/190	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680
Paul Young Erie, IL	295.0293	Pioneer P1108Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	33500	–	Laudis, Roundup WeatherMax, TripleFLEX	–	180/140/190	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S680
INDIANA										
Jerry Cardinal Oaktown, IN	304.9644	AgriGold A6499STX	STX	Poncho 500	36000	–	Atrazine+Roundup	–	250/250/250	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S670
Dallas Cardinal Oaktown, IN	294.4583	AgriGold A6659 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	Poncho 500	38000	–	Acuron, Atrazine 4L Princep 4L, Roundup PowerMax	–	250/250/250	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S670
Brad Stackhouse Plymouth, IN	293.9325	AgriGold A6499	CONV	–	34000	–	–	–	270/50/100	Kinze 3800 Case IH 8240
KANSAS										
Grant Webber Sublette, KS	317.0136	Pioneer P1828AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	34000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680
Chris Bodenhausen Muscotah, KS	302.0069	DEKALB DKC66-18RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	38000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere 6620
Kristin Fuhrman Lancaster, KS	285.6742	AgriGold A6544 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	–	34000	–	Roundup PowerMax Status	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1795 Case IH 7120
KENTUCKY										
Dennis McKay Owensboro, KY	279.8330	AgriGold A648-54STX	STX	–	32000	–	–	–	300/0/0	John Deere 1775NT John Deere 9670
Phillip Meredith Reed, KY	268.3164	Pioneer P2089AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	PPST 250	33000	–	–	–	240/0/0	John Deere 1790 CCS John Deere 9870
Jed Clark Mayfield, KY	240.8716	Pioneer P1656WAM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	33000	Bifenture	Atrazine 4L, Brawl II ATZ, Peak, Rifle	Priaxor	0/0/0	John Deere 1770NT John Deere S670
LOUISIANA										
Nathan Lee Tallulah, LA	280.1300	Pioneer P1506YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Cruiser	36000	–	Atrazine+Banvel Balance Flexx	–	250/125/100	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S780

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED

Dustin Morris Rayville, LA	279.8685	Pioneer P2042VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL	–	36000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge XP John Deere 9760
Scott Williams Vick, LA	255.7085	Pioneer P1870YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Cruiser	32000	–	–	–	240/120/100	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP John Deere S680

MASSACHUSETTS

William Llewelyn Northfield, MA	215.0453	Channel 209-15STXRIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	51000	–	SureStart	Headline AMP	220/37/230	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/John Deere 9500
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MARYLAND

Duncan Smith Keyser, WV	288.6009	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	37000	–	–	–	250/50/200	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere S670
Catherine Bostic Church Hill, MD	272.8811	AgriGold A641-06 VT2RIB	VT2RIB	–	38000	–	–	–	300/100/200	John Deere 1790 John Deere S660
Michael Bostic Church Hill, MD	264.0474	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 High Rate; Poncho 1250+Votivo	34000	–	–	–	300/100/200	John Deere 1770 John Deere S660

MICHIGAN

Don Stall Charlotte, MI	476.9052	Pioneer P0720AM™	AM,LL, RR2	–	46500	–	Armezon Pro	–	500/98/0	Case IH 1250 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH 8240
Tyler Schaendorf Dorr, MI	304.5414	DEKALB DKC59-82RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	38000	–	Resolve Q+Roundup	–	300/42/60	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9600
Bryan Hammis Howard City, MI	295.5036	Pioneer P0306AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	37500	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1765 Flex Claas Lexion 760

MINNESOTA

Dave Beskau Hastings, MN	275.9425	Pioneer P1185Q	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	Capture 2 EC	FulTime	Quilt Xcel	230/17/0	Case IH 1265 Case IH 8230
Gary Beskau Hastings, MN	271.6069	Pioneer P1108Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	36000	–	Anthem ATZ Halex GT	Trivapro	230/17/0	Case IH 1265 Case IH 8230
David Kolb Paynesville, MN	271.2319	Pioneer P0688AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	33000	–	–	–	180/0/100	John Deere DB44 John Deere 9870 STS

MISSOURI

Kenny Toedebusch Chillicothe, MO	308.4093	ProHarvest 8360VT2PRIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	38000	–	–	–	320/150/190	Kinze 3600 John Deere 9770 STS
Tory Meyr Jackson, MO	306.0412	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	–	35000	–	–	–	270/70/90	Case IH 1235 Stackbar Early Riser/Case IH 7230
Alexander Eftink Chaffee, MO	284.4720	Pioneer P2042VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL	Lumivia	33000	Sniper	Atrazine 4L, Keystone Liberty	Approach Approach Prima	270/100/220	Kinze 3400 New Holland CR9070 Twin Rotor

MISSISSIPPI

Adron Belk Greenwood, MS	294.0959	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	39000	–	Roundup	–	300/50/60	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 8250
Betsy Belk Greenwood, MS	288.0706	DEKALB DKC70-27	VT2P	Acceleron +Poncho 250	39000	–	–	–	300/50/60	John Deere 1720 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 8250
Allen Cole Hernando, MS	277.6586	Pioneer P2042VYHR	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL	–	42000	–	–	–	320/100/100	John Deere 1720 Stack-Fold MaxEmerge Plus John Deere S770

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester	
I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED										
MONTANA										
Dale Hirsch Kinsey, MT 7720	189.3294	Pioneer P9188AMXT™†	AMXT,LL, RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	–	Resicore	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1760 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum/John Deere
NORTH CAROLINA										
Chase & Allan Harris Snow Hill, NC	256.0107	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	Poncho 1250+VOTIVO	32000	Ethos XB	AAtrex 4L, Brawll II Buccaneer 5 Callisto, Resicore	–	300/100/250	John Deere 1725 CCS Stack-Fold/John Deere 9870 STS
Luke Blizzard Stantonsburg, NC STS	242.7549	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	–	43000	Mustang MAX	Callisto Degree Xtra	–	380/180/300	John Deere 1720 Integral Stack-Fold/John Deere 9650
Henry Dail Kenansville, NC	234.2366	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	32000	–	–	–	300/20/160	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9870 STS
NORTH DAKOTA										
Cody Frauenberg Lamoure, ND	280.1759	DEKALB DKC42-05RIB	VT2PRIB	Amplify D+Poncho	38000	–	–	–	220/156/180	John Deere DB66 Case IH 9230
Nathan Quandt Oakes, ND	248.8981	DEKALB DKC51-40RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron™	32000	–	–	–	250/30/30	White 9824 Claas Lexion 760
NEBRASKA										
Ashton Peterson Bertrand, NE	324.5989	Pioneer P1563AML™	AML,LL,RR2	–	32000	–	Resicore	–	240/40/0	John Deere DR16 John Deere S780
Rocky Peterson Bertrand, NE	319.6860	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	34000	–	Atrazine, Resicore Roundup	–	240/45/0	John Deere DR16 John Deere S780
Heath Schake Kearney, NE	316.2326	Pioneer P1563AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	32500	–	–	–	270/75/0	John Deere 1720 CCS John Deere S770
NEW JERSEY										
Eric Eachus Mullica Hill, NJ	276.4755	Dyna-Gro D58VC65	VT2P	–	37000	–	Callisto Corvus	Delaro	200/100/100	Harvest International Ultra Plant Series 40 Claas Lexion 740
NEW MEXICO										
Angilene Jim Farmington, NM	221.4268	Channel 203-44STXRIB	SS-RIB	Acceleron	35000	–	–	–	285/40/60	John Deere 1710 Vertical-Fold/John Deere S780
NEVADA										
Nathan Wadsworth Fallon, NV	165.8542	Pioneer P1055AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	–	38000	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge Vacuum/John Deere 9600
NEW YORK										
Adam Kirby Albion, NY	271.8228	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	37000	–	–	–	350/75/400	John Deere 1770 NT CCS Case IH 8120
Paul Campbell Nichols, NY	229.6449	DEKALB DKC52-84RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron	39000	–	–	–	80/40/60	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus/John Deere 6620
OHIO										
Curt Potter Sherwood, OH	280.1659	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Cruiser 250	34000	–	–	–	220/110/180	John Deere 7200 MaxEmerge 2 Vacuum/John Deere 9770 STS
Nathan Ewing Waverly, OH	279.4864	Pioneer P1359AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	34000	–	Clarity Roundup PowerMax	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1770 John Deere 9870 STS
Greg Waters West Lafayette, OH	276.4853	DEKALB DKC63-90RIB	SSRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34300	–	Balance Flexx Laudis	–	290/0/60	Kinze 3700 Claas Lexion 740

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/ Harvester
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I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED

OKLAHOMA

Allen Pfnanstiel Dalhart, TX	305.9035	Pioneer P1311AMXT™	AMXT,LL,RR2	Cruiser +Poncho 250	30000	–	–	–	300/65/30	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP/John Deere S670
Nathan Johnson Boise City, OK	292.3161	Pioneer P1108Q™	Q,LL,RR2	–	29000	–	–	–	280/75/40	John Deere 7300 MaxEmerge 2 John Deere 9860 STS
Todd Mason Goodwell, OK	288.5403	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	–	30000	–	–	–	280/80/30	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9870 STS

OREGON

Vern Frederickson Boardman, OR	249.4356	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	45000	–	Keystone Roundup WeatherMax	–	0/0/0	John Deere 7340 John Deere S670
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PENNSYLVANIA

Clifford Charles Lancaster, PA	289.1484	Pioneer P1077AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +Raxil	39500	–	–	–	330/50/150	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 8010
Doug Scipioni Newmanstown, PA	282.9564	Pioneer P1442AM™	AM,LL,RR2	–	36000	–	–	–	200/30/30	John Deere 1750 MaxEmerge Plus Vacuum/Gleaner R52
Eric Meyers Mercersburg, PA	265.8565	Pioneer P1847AML™*	AML,LL,RR2	Poncho 250	40000	–	–	–	300/100/400	John Deere 7000 John Deere 9660 STS

SOUTH CAROLINA

William Jameson Ellore, SC	283.9308	Pioneer P2089YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Amplify L +Poncho 250	39000	–	Bellum Cinch ATZ	Approch Prima	300/35/100	John Deere 1700 MaxEmerge XP Case IH 7140
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SOUTH DAKOTA

Samuel Waldner Huron, SD	281.0591	Beck's Hybrids 5699VT2P	VT2P	ApronXL+Dynasty +MaximXL	34000	–	–	–	230/0/0	John Deere DB60 John Deere S680
Kerry Hofer Freeman, SD	280.5338	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	35000	–	–	–	120/0/0	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere 9770 STS
Jarrod Hagena Hurley, SD	276.6451	Pioneer P1185AM™	AM,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	34000	–	Generic Roundup Outlook, Resicore	–	130/0/0	John Deere DB80 John Deere S780

TENNESSEE

Erin Reed Elora, TN	295.8768	AgriGold A644-32TRC	Trecepta	–	37000	–	AAtrex, Laudis, Roundup PowerMax, Warrant	–	210/60/110	John Deere 1775NT John Deere S660
Seth Taylor Rives, TN	287.8949	DEKALB DKC66-18	VT2P	Apron Max +Poncho 250	36000	–	Clarity Roundup PowerMax	–	300/200/200	John Deere 1770 NT CCS John Deere S680
Justin Hollingshead Bells, TN	257.4999	Pioneer P1464VYHR*	AVBL,YGCB, HX1, LL,RR2	Lumivia 250 + Lumisure 250 + Lumialza	29760	–	–	–	0/0/0	John Deere 1795 John Deere 770

TEXAS

Tommy & Valerie Cartrite Sunray, TX	315.2357	Pioneer P1828Q™	Q,LL,RR2	–	44000	–	Mad Dog Metalachlor	–	0/0/0	John Deere 7300 Case IH 8250
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UTAH

Bart Pali Brigham City, UT	317.7777	DEKALB DKC52-61RIB	VT2PRIB	Amplify D +Poncho 250	34500	–	Harness Xtra	Approch Prima	300/100/0	Case IH 1200 Case IH 9230
Zack Pali Tremonton, UT	307.8855	DEKALB DKC52-61RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron +Poncho 250	34500	–	–	–	300/100/0	Case IH 1200 Case IH 9230
Braydan Nelson Tremonton, UT	298.5891	Pioneer P1055AM™*	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250	37000	–	Atrazine, Callisto Dual, Stinger	–	300/100/0	Case IH 1255 Front-Fold Early Riser/Case IH 7240

Yield	Hybrid Brand/ No.	Traits	Seed Treatment	Harvest Population	Insecticide	Herbicide	Fungicide	N/P/K	Planter/Harvester	
I: CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED										
VIRGINIA										
Brett Wightman Mount Jackson, VA	282.8923	DEKALB DKC70-27RIB	VT2PRIB	Acceleron	40000	-	-	-	300/150/150	John Deere 7200 Conservation John Deere S770
Patrick Newcomb Hanover, VA	280.2709	Pioneer P1197AM™	AM,LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	34000	-	-	-	300/50/300	John Deere 1770 Front-Fold MaxEmerge Plus Drawn Conservation/Case IH 8240
Robbie Newcomb Hanover, VA	274.6250	Pioneer P1903YHR	YGCB,HX1, LL,RR2	Poncho 1250 +VOTIVO	34000	-	-	-	300/50/300	John Deere 1770 Front-Fold MaxEmerge Plus Drawn Conservation/Case IH 8240
WASHINGTON										
Boe Clausen Warden, WA	316.0989	DEKALB DKC54-38RIB	SSRIB	-	36000	-	-	-	250/0/0	John Deere 1720 John Deere S680
WISCONSIN										
George Andrew Evansville, WI	324.7783	Pioneer P0720Q™	Q,LL,RR2	LumiGEN™ 2020 Premium	40000	-	Verdict	-	300/100/200	John Deere 1770NT CCS ProXP John Deere S670
Jeff Laskowski Plover, WI	302.4913	DEKALB DKC62-08RIB	SSRIB	-	38000	Bifenthrin	Atrazine 4F, Dual II Magnum, Roundup	Trivapro	240/0/120	John Deere 1770NT John Deere 9560 STS
Matt Patoka Amherst, WI	273.9067	Pioneer P0421AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	38000	-	-	-	216/65/60	Case IH 2150 Early Riser Front Fold/Case IH 6130
WYOMING										
Bryan Greenwald Lingle, WY	240.5709	Pioneer P0421Q™	Q,LL,RR2	Lumivia	36000	-	-	-	150/50/25	John Deere 7300 Conservation Case IH Axial-Flow 1660
Robert Cook Lingle, WY	195.9422	Pioneer P9608AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	33000	Besiege	Atrazine 90 DF Steadfast Q	Trivapro	225/50/30	Case IH 1235 Stackerbar Early Riser/Case IH 8010
Robb Cook Lingle, WY	179.6777	Pioneer P9870AM™	AM,LL,RR2	-	34000	-	Atrazine 4L, Bicep II Gramoxone Inteon Resolve Q+Roundup	-	225/50/40	Case IH 1235 Stackerbar Early Riser/Case IH 8010

2020 ENTRIES BY STATE

Affiliated States

Alabama	75
Arkansas.....	134
Colorado.....	90
Georgia.....	65
Illinois*	839
Indiana*	473
Iowa*	1,088
Kansas.....	383
Kentucky	243
Louisiana	133
Maryland	127
Michigan.....	658
Minnesota*	383
Mississippi.....	132
Missouri*.....	306
Nebraska	818
New York.....	61
North Carolina.....	218
North Dakota.....	47
Ohio*	369
Oklahoma	53
Pennsylvania	105
South Carolina	53
South Dakota	156
Tennessee	158
Texas.....	53
Virginia	83
Wisconsin*.....	201

Unaffiliated States	340
Total Entrants	7,844

Average Yield
Avg. Plant Pop.
Avg. Harvest Pop.

All Entrants
 254.3562
 34,163
 33,771

National Winners
 345.9948
 38,425
 37,481

Row Spacing
 <30"
 30"
 36"
 38"
 40"

% of Entrants
 8%
 86.96%
 2.00%
 3.00%
 .004%

% of Entrants
 4%
 96%
 0%
 0%
 0%

Average Fertilizer Use

Nitrogen (lbs)
 Phosphorus (lbs)
 Potash (lbs)
 Trace Elements (%)
 Manure (%)

All Entrants
 213.5135
 58.7002
 85.9622
 19.00%
 15.00%

National Winners
 277.9525
 92.5185
 108.7837
 22.00%
 15.00%

Timing of Nitrogen Fertilizer Application

Fall (%)
 Spring Pre-Plant (%)
 At Planting (%)
 Side Dress (%)

12.97%
 46.01%
 52.18%
 59.47%

4.00%
 15.00%
 70.00%
 55.00%

Starter (%)
Surface Applied (%)
Incorporated (%)
Irrigation (%)
Nitrogen/bu. (lbs)

67.95%
 53.94%
 66.52%
 16.79%
 0.84

88.00%
 81.00%
 70.00%
 14.00%
 0.88

Soil Test (%)

65.00%

74.00%

Previous Crop

Corn (%)
 Soybeans (%)
 Wheat (%)
 Alfalfa/Hay (%)
 Other (%)

25.00%
 62.00%
 5.00%
 0.05%
 7.75%

12.12%
 88.88%
 0.00%
 0.00%
 0.00%

Sustainability Practices

	Yes	No
Are cover crops planted on any portion of your farming operation?....	3,611 – 46%	4,233 – 64%
Are you actively reducing tillage practices?	6,116 – 78%	1,728 – 22%
Do you have an active integrated pest management plan?	5,666 – 72%	2,178 – 28%
Are you an integrated crop & livestock operation utilizing manure?	2,948 – 38%	4,896 – 62%

2020 ENTRIES BY CLASS*

	# of Entrants	Winning Yield
A: Conventional Non-Irrigated.....	754	381.5595
B: Conventional Non-Irrigated*	1,722	385.4405
C: No-Till Non-Irrigated.....	720	387.0916
D: No-Till Non-Irrigated*.....	649	329.0569
E: Strip-, Min.-, Mulch-, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated.....	538	358.7429
F: Strip-, Min.-, Mulch-, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated*.....	841	347.4597
G: No-Till Irrigated, All States.....	468	322.8746
H: Strip-, Min.-, Mulch-, Ridge-Till Irrigated..	1,098	367.3214
I: Conventional Irrigated.....	1,054	476.9052
Total	7,844	

* Corn Belt States IL IN IA MN MO OH WI

Forty-eight (48) states participated in the contest; Sixty-two (62) seed companies were represented. The 506 State Winners planted 460 hybrid numbers. A total of 861 hybrid numbers were planted by 7,844 entrants.



NATIONAL
CORN YIELD
CONTEST



ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE 2021

By accepting the National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC) challenge, you contribute valuable data that will help all corn farmers face challenges to come. You'll receive the benefits of becoming an NCGA and state member and opportunities through industry partners. Below are statements on the contest from farmers like you that may plant a new seed of thought and shed light on this national phenomenon.

BOB SPROAT | CALIFORNIA
RETIRED ENDODONTIST

"I was on a mission to seek knowledge about growing the best crop that I could possibly raise."

DAVID HULA | VIRGINIA
CHAMPION RECORD HOLDER

"The yield contest gives me a reason to go out of my comfort zone to try a new approach."

KEVIN KALB | INDIANA
1ST PLACE NATIONAL WINNER 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

"A lot of corn growers think their job is finished once the corn tassels. But if your goal is to get the best possible yield, you have to stick with it through the entire season and finish up strong."

TROY UPHOFF | ILLINOIS
FIRST-TIME STATE WINNER

"The contest isn't about producing a high yield on one plot in a single year. It's about assessing innovations that can bring higher yields to all fields in the future."

JEFFREY BARLIEB | NEW JERSEY
FIRST-TIME NATIONAL WINNER

"I always want to know if what I do actually works."

JOHN RIGDON | MARYLAND
ENTERED 24 OF THE LAST 25 CONTESTS

"We never stop learning from other farmers who have entered the yield contest."

JOHN PANOWICZ | NEBRASKA
DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS FOCUSED ON SOIL HEALTH

"Pay attention to detail, scout, tissue and soil test and build a database that will improve your soil health for the future."

Whether you're out to set a record or strive to beat your personal best, you'll contribute to the body of agronomic research that helps farmers feed and fuel the world while preserving natural resources for Americans in rural and urban areas alike. Accept the challenge in 2021.

Learn more at [NCGA.com/NCYC](https://www.ncga.com/ncyc) | Contact Linda Lambur (636) 733-5512

