

Wauneta native Ted Fye places second in 2012 National Corn Yield Contest

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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From left, Ted Fye, representing Harold Rother Farms, accepted the trophy from Garry Niemeyer, NCGA Corn Board chairman, during the Commodity Classic held in March in Kissimmee, Fla. Harold Rother Farms Inc., Arapahoe, Colo., earned second place in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated Class of the 2012 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). (Courtesy Photo)

A Wauneta native has been honored as one of 18 national winners in the 2012 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored annually by the National Corn Growers Association.

Harold Rother Farms Inc. of Arapahoe, Colo., placed second in the nation in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 324.4291 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer P1625HR.

The 2012 competition included 8,263 growers from 46 states. The contest consists of six classes and, in the national competition, three placings are awarded within each class. The 18 national winners represented 13 states.

The average yield among national winners was 316.3 bushels per acre—greater than the 2012 U.S. average of 122.3 bushels per acre. Nine of the national winners recorded yields of 300

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bushels or more per acre.

“Despite the fact that 2012 was a challenging production year, individual growers continued to provide a showcase for American production agriculture,” said NCGA Chairman Garry Niemeyer, a corn grower from Auburn, Ill. “While the national corn yield average declined more than 24 bushels per acre in 2012, the average yield in this year’s contest actually increased by more than three bushels per acre as compared to 2011.”

“That’s why this contest and its focus on safe, advanced corn production methods are so important,” Niemeyer continued. “The top yield in this year’s contest—a tremendous 384.4 bushels per acre achieved by David Hula of Charles City, Va.,—is a testament to these efforts.

Farmers are encouraged through the contest to utilize new, efficient production techniques. Agronomic data gleaned from the contest reveal the following:

- Average planting population for the national winners was 37,941 seeds per acre, compared to 33,532 for all entrants.
- National winners applied an average of 273 pounds of nitrogen, 82 pounds of phosphorus and 115 pounds of potassium per acre.
- Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 0.87 pounds for the national winners and 0.90 pounds for all entrants.
- Fifty percent of the national winners applied trace minerals, compared to 36 percent of all entrants.
- Use of manure as a fertilizer was consistent. Seventeen percent of national winners applied manure, compared to 16 percent of all entrants.

The National Corn Yield Contest began in 1965 with 20 entries from three states. The highest overall yield was 218.9 bushels per acre, while the national yield average was in the mid-60 bushel-per-acre range.

The winners were recognized March 1 at the 2013 Commodity Classic—the premier convention and trade show of the U.S. corn, soybean, sorghum and wheat industries—held in Kissimmee, Fla. For a complete list of winners and for more information about NCYC, visit the NCGA Web site at www.ncga.com.

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The National Corn Growers Association represents more than 38,000 members, 48 affiliated state corn grower and checkoff organizations, and hundreds of thousands of growers who contribute to state checkoff programs.