

Corn Yields Continue To Increase

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This past week, Dr. Bill Wiebold, University of Missouri Extension State Crop Specialist, showed corn yield data over decades of corn research how corn yields have increased. The data showed that the genetics that increased yield were from increased population and ability to handle stress.

The data he showed was very interesting in that corn breeders over time have spent time managing crop stresses and continuing to add traits which allow more plants per acre.

Those who are promoting biotechnology have given growers the impression that we will reach very high corn yields in the future. We may very

well. But the data from this research indicates yield increases will be from genetic packages such as drought tolerance.

Using a low population planting, Weibold measured the yield of hybrid corn varieties that had been developed over the past few decades. The data did not show an increase in the yields of varieties modified over the years. If the genetics had altered to increase yield, the data would have indicated an increase in yield due to enhanced genetics. The advances made in biotechnology are seen in the plant's own resistance to environmental stress. Δ

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