

# Cox Farms Host Champion Field Event

## It Is In The Details

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**J**erry Cox of Delta, Missouri and his son Matthew recently hosted the Champion Field Event. The event was sponsored by the Conklin Company and Pioneer Hybrid Seeds. Cox Farms has won more National Championships than any other operation in the National Corn Growers Association history with 21 National titles.

In October 2010, Cox was presented the Governor’s Award for Agricultural Achievement in corn production by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

is furrow irrigation. All of our land has been precision graded. I used to be in the land leveling business so I had the equipment. It has been level for several years. When I got out of the Army in 1972 we started land leveling and putting down wells.”

Jerry credits his success to paying attention to detail. “I try to really pay attention to detail; if they say spray these weeds when they are an inch tall, I try to do that. I don’t want to wait until they get too big. I want to control the weeds and things. I don’t want them to control me. I try to use a good fertility program. We use commercial fertilizer, dry fertilizers. I use some starter fertilizers. We do a lot of soil testing. We



Since 2001 Cox Farms has hosted a field day almost every year. This year is primarily Pioneer Hybrid Seed.

Photo by John LaRose

According to Rod Livesay, Senior Director with the Conklin Company, since adding Conklin’s AgroVantage System, Cox Farms have increased their farm average over 70 bushel per acre as well as raising their top end over 70 bushel per acre, breaking the 300 bushel mark soundly.

Cox Farms has hosted a field day most every year since 2001. This year Cox Farms is primarily Pioneer Hybrid Seed. Cox explained, “if you look at my test plots, they have a few competitors, the only competitors I have on 2,000 acres. Everything is Pioneer except what we have here in the test plot.”

Jerry began farming with his father, since 1980 Jerry has been farming on his own. Jerry talked about the yields when he began farming, “back in the early ‘70s we never had any 200 bushel yields, 160 bushel would have been our very top yields, anywhere from 75 to 160.”

Jerry was asked about his average for the past three years, he said, “last three years, about 220 on corn; soybeans probably around 65.”

Jerry irrigates 85 percent of his 2,000 acres. He plants a 50/50 corn and soybean rotation. He said, “I have one center pivot. The rest of it

do some tissue testing. We want to know, always, what the soil says you need and what the plant is actually getting is two different things.”

Jerry conducts soil testing about every two years. “Of course I always enter into the National Corn Growers contest. Some of that we will test every year.”

Jerry is convinced his experience in the yield contests has helped his farming operation. Jerry said, “I am always looking at those acres. For the yield contest you have to have at least 10 acres of one hybrid, but that 10 acres I look at a lot of different things. I am trying to see what works and what doesn’t work.”

Jerry currently has about 240,000 bushel of on farm storage, of which over half has been put up in the last five years. Jerry stated, “I learned my lesson back when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf. Our basis got so bad on corn because the barges and I didn’t have anywhere to go with it. So I said never again is this going to happen. Now we don’t have to haul anything to the elevator in the fall or very little. We can’t quite hold everything we grow.”

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