

'Mini-Maxi' Debate Among Soybean Farmers is Not About Skirt Length

Women and soybean farmers have something in common this spring. It's the mini vs. maxi debate.

While the girls are wondering about skirt lengths and which length is "in," farmers are puzzling over soybean row widths and which pattern is best.

Both debates involve figures. The numerical kind are cited by Dr. John Clapp in his observation that the "mini" or narrow row width has something to offer in terms of potentially higher soybean yields.

"Our word over the past two years indicates that there may be some advantage in planting beans in 28-inch rows rather than 38-inch rows," Clapp said.

"Yields haven't been reduced where the 28-inch spacing was used, and in some cases yield increases have been obtained."

Yield increases up to 6.4 bushels per acre have been recorded during the last two years from narrow row planting. The response to narrow rows has come during seasons of limited moisture such as that of 1968.

Clapp explained that the difference may be partially accounted for by a greater use of light and moisture by the plant during seasons or conditions that limit plant growth.

Late-planted soybeans (planted after mid-June) don't have necessary growing time to develop a full canopy, so gaps are left between plants in adjoining 38-inch or wider rows.

"By narrow the rows, we get a more complete cover," said Clapp. "That means we are making more complete use of the total amount of sunlight falling on an acre of ground."

He added, "If a farmer is planting beans behind small grain or planting late for other reasons, I would think that he would want to consider planting in 26- to 30-inch row widths."

The specialist added that rows as narrow as 19 or 20 inches are being tried. "This might work all right on individual farms where the weeds are in good control," he said. "But the disadvantage here is not being able to cultivate."

Included along with the row width debate is the decision growers must make regarding plant spacing in the row. Spread them out too far and yields suffer. Bunch them up too close and they fall over before harvest time.

"The figures we collected last year indicate that 7 to 8 plants per foot of row is a good goal to shoot for in 38-inch rows," Clapp said. "A seeding rate of 8 to 10 seed per foot of row will usually be required to give the desired stand. If you get them much closer, there is a definite risk of lodging (falling over)."

He added that 6 to 7 plants per foot of row seems to be a happy medium with 28-inch rows. In an Edgecombe County test

last year, beans in 34-inch rows produced 39.5 bushels per acre when planted to average stand of 7.7 plants per foot. Those planted to an average of 12.8 plants per foot dropped to just under 36 bushels per acre.

Clapp added that many farmers tend to over-plant. "Too many plants per foot of row or per acre can limit yields just as too few plants can," he warned.



Dear Jack:

Just a note of appreciation and commendation on your thoughtful and objective editorial comments in recent days about school unrest and student violence.

These matters are of such grave national importance that they transcend politics. Too often we hear people and news media take the safe course of criticism. It takes courage to recognize right, especially when it appears unpopular on the surface.

It is my firm belief that our news media has the right, and in fact the responsibility to voice their opinion. This right arises when and only when they have fairly and equally presented the facts on both sides. So-called freedom of the press is not a license to slant or distort or partially represent facts. The freedom is founded on responsibility and doesn't exist without such responsibility.

It is my own conviction that we are approaching the real possibility of final destruction of our higher education system. This has been accomplished by school trustees or directors who meet in a country club atmosphere and conduct their leadership and policy-making duties with cavalier abandon. Seldom do they look behind the prepared data and reports that are spoon fed to them by school presidents and administrators. Combine this with the financial power of the many foundations that influence their decisions and we have the cause of the gradual erosion of authority over students. Those great people who established these fortunes that are now endowing and influencing the entire academic structure of our nation would be appalled to see the often weird and always socialistic principles that are advanced by those persons now managing those funds. Combine these factors with elements of irresponsible press, radio, and TV and we have today's result.

Only a small percentage of our students have caused our problem, but it is obvious that the mass of students have failed to respond to any cause. I attribute this in large part to the failure of leadership by school faculties who have failed to instill in them any allegiance to basic principles or shown to them any approach to problems of government except the emotional.

Schools have lost sight of their prime objective which is education. The worst indictment of

our generation is that we have forfeited our right of control and leadership to a militant and misled youth. The final responsibility lies with each of us.
Sincerely,
F. E. Wallace, Jr.

NURSING

Continued from page 1

uate nurses until 1953 when it was closed for renovation of the hospital. The students were transferred to Watts Hospital in Durham to complete their training.

The Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1957 and has continued to graduate nursing students yearly since 1960. Mrs. Hazel Mazingo Blizard, a 1950 graduate, is presently Superintendent of Nurses and Director of the Nurses School.

The largest class to graduate was in 1964 when 16 nurses received diplomas. This school has graduated 208 nurses and will graduate a class of 15 in August 1970.

Many nurses who have graduated from this school have gone forward in the field of nursing. At present two alumnae are serving in the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam, another is stationed in Hawaii. One alumna, Miss Glennie Rouse, recently retired from the Army Nurse Corps after 20 years of service with the rank of Major.

Among the graduates not mentioned above familiar to this

vicinity are: Maude Taylor, winner of the Lenoir-Greene-Jones Medical Society's 1970 Nurse of the Year award; Elizabeth Jones Stanford; Sarah Best Curry; Dolly Jones Hall; Bertie Bynum Ward; Stella Mallard Mewborne; Anne Files Collins; Swannie Newsome Southern; Lucy May Murphy; Ruth Webber Eubanks; Doris Ricks Raspberry; Elizabeth Carter White; Estelle Mercer Eubanks; Ida Cameron Workman; Virginia Sutton Johnston.



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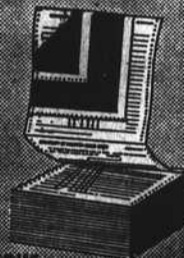
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