



Photo courtesy The Patriot News Co., Harrisburg, Penn.

The Amazing Maize Maze carved out of Jim Witter's corn field was the world's largest maze, measuring 145,000 sq. ft., or about 3 acres.

IT ATTRACTED MORE THAN 23,000 VISITORS AT \$4 A HEAD

Huge Corn Maze Drew Worldwide Attention

Until it was harvested Sept. 20, Jim Witter undoubtedly had the most famous corn field in the world thanks to a giant corn maze that drew attention from every corner of the globe.

From Aug. 19 through Sept. 4, the Shippensburg, Pa., farmer's field was home to the "Amazing Maize Maze" that covered 145,000 sq. ft. or about 3 acres. The previous world record was for a 126,000 sq. ft. dinosaur maze at Annville, Pa., in 1993.

Both mazes were conceived by Don Frantz, a Pennsylvania native and theatrical producer of Broadway's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Frantz and British maze designer Adrian Fisher selected Shippensburg to construct the record-setting maze because of the town's annual Corn Festival. Frantz, Fisher and city officials agreed to time the maze with the city's festival, which began Aug. 26.

Witter's field was selected as a stage for the maze because his Funks-G hybrid grows up to 8 ft. tall and has broader leaves than many other hybrids planted in the area.

The maze was drawn out by hand first, then transferred to computer so measurements and angles would be accurate.

The 118-day hybrid was planted in 30-in. rows at the end of April. In May, work-

ers staked out the field in 25-ft. increments and strung rope between the posts to make the grid. They used a weed trimmer to carve the pathways. The paths were then planted to grass. Once up, the grass was trimmed every two weeks with a weed trimmer.

Sunflowers were planted around the giant maze. Other finishing touches included 15-ft. high loudspeakers to play music, a maze captain's tower (for those who got lost in the maze), and sprinkler system.

Witter estimates the maze drew some 23,000 visitors at an average \$4 per head. Ten percent of the proceeds were donated to Shippensburg's historical society.

"It was really something else," Witter says about the maze which was featured on virtually every U.S. network newscast and many more overseas. "There were so many people who went through, all with positive reactions, that there is talk of another one. We don't know yet if it'll be next year or the year after."

Meantime, Witter's corn, which is fed to his 250 dairy cows, yielded about 95 bu per acre outside the maze; about 65 bu per acre inside.

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Silo Pumpkin Promotes Farm's Halloween Crop

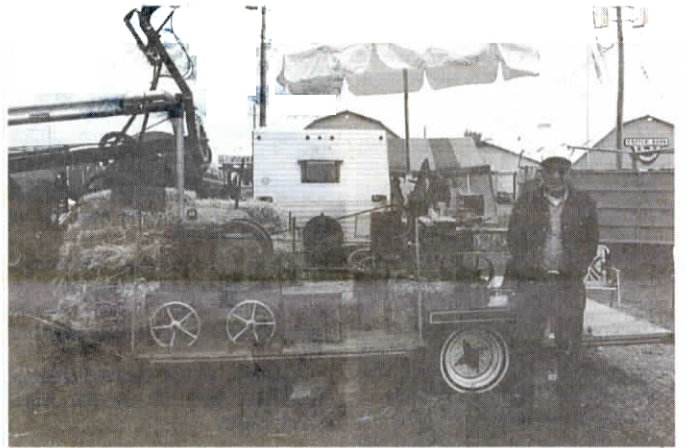
The spirit of Halloween never quite leaves the Terry Goebbert farm near Hampshire, Ill., thanks to a giant fiberglass pumpkin that perches year-round on top of a 40-ft. tall silo.

Goebbert has operated a 15-acre pick-your-own pumpkin patch for 9 years. Since his farm is located along a busy highway, he figured the investment in the giant orange advertisement would be money well-spent.

The pumpkin was built by a commercial firm and lifted into place by a crane in the fall of 1991. To make sure it stays put, the pumpkin is anchored to the ground by steel cables inside the silo.

Each fall, the Goebbert farm is frequently visited by bus loads of school children. Other activities at the farm include a petting zoo, a haunted barn, and the sale of apples, cider, potatoes and onions.

FARM SHOW



Cox's baler/tractor combo is modeled after the kind his dad used on their farm.

MAKES 20 BALES PER HOUR THAT SELL FOR \$3 APIECE

1/3-Scale Baler Powered By Mini John Deere

When he was growing up on a farm near Tekama, Neb., Lloyd Cox learned first-hand about stationary balers.

Now, Cox travels to county fairs and threshing contests with his own stationary baler and tractor, cranking out perfectly formed square bales like clockwork.

The only difference between what he's doing now and what his dad did is that Cox's

baler and tractor are 1/3 scale models of the originals.

"I learned from my dad how the baler and tractor worked and that helped me build my models," Cox says.

Cox spent about a year building his replica of a 1923 Case stationary baler and 1926 Deere 1 1/2 hp gas engine to power it. The machinery's main gears are out of an old pump jack and its flywheels come from various places. Cox fabricated all other parts out of metal he bought for the project.

Cox says the baler will produce a maximum of 20 bales per hour when working wide open. He sells the 5 by 7 by 12-in. bales for \$3 apiece as a novelty.

Cox built a 3-ft. wide by 5-ft. long hay rack, which holds about 100 bales, to go along with the baler and tractor. He also built a single-axle, oak-floored 12 by 8-ft. trailer to haul the model from show to show.

Cox has about \$4,500 invested in his mini baler and tractor.

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Goebbert's fiberglass pumpkin atop silo.