



The perfectly-matched team's routine includes 360° turns and figure eights.

Twenty White Mules Make A Perfect Team

"It's the only team we know of that has 20 perfectly matched white mules. They're all the same size and the same color," says Connie Shields, coordinator of the team for the J.R. Simplot Co., Boise, Idaho.

The company purchased the team from Baker, Oregon rancher Bill Schann who, through a breeding program crossing a Spanish jack with Shetland pony mares, ended up with 40 all-white foals. Twenty six of these foals matched well enough to form the 20-mule team. Those not on the team are spares — in case one of the regulars is sick or injured.

Standing about 4½ ft. tall, the mules have their own positions on the hitch and are linked together with

a custom-made harness.

Simplot, a diversified company which manufactures chemical fertilizer and processes food, uses the team much as beer companies use Belgians and Clydesdales to promote their companies. The team appears at parades and festivals throughout the U.S. Their routine includes figure eights and 360° turns where the front pair of mules circles back to practically touch the back of the covered wagon.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.R. Simplot Co., C/O Connie Shields, One Capital Center, 999 Main St., Suite 1300, P.O. Box 27, Boise, Idaho 83707 (ph 208 336-2110).

MAY THE BEST MACHINE WIN

Combine Contest Pits Deere Against IH

An International dealer in Illinois put its reputation on the line last fall when it sponsored a combine corn shelling contest for large "Class 5" combines that included its own Axial Flow rotaries.

Open to anyone, the contest had an entry fee of \$1,000. Entry fees made up the winner's purse in the winner-take-all contest.

The idea was to harvest two acres of corn in no more than 35 min. Each operator was given two acres to set and adjust his machine. The machine and operator harvesting the most corn — by weight — was to be declared the winner. A judge was on hand to grade the corn by percent of cracked corn and foreign material. Combines had to operate with a 6-row, 30-in. corn head. The machines could only be equipped with standard components made by the same manufacturer as the combine itself.

As it turned out, only two contestants showed up on contest day, October 31, due to the fact that there were only a few nice days in among

all the rainy ones last fall. The contest went ahead with a Deere 7720 and an International 1460. A crowd of farmers — and combine manufacturing executives — watched them work their way through the 28% moisture corn. The combines each harvested the 2 acres of about 165 bu. corn and the samples were taken to a local elevator to be weighed.

Winner by a 30-lb. margin was the IH Axial Flow owned and operated by Paul Hill, Creston, Ill. He also had a much cleaner sample, according to the judge, and he walked away with the \$2,000 prize.

"Next year we hope to get many more entrants and a better cross section of machines by choosing a better date. Farmers didn't have much free time when the weather was nice last fall. We may also lower the entry fee next year," says Lee Prunty, representative of Walker-Schork International, the sponsoring dealer.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Walker-Schork International, 251 South, Rochelle, Ill. (ph 815 562-2135).

WON'T ROLL OFF PLATE

Square Ear Sweet Corn

A scientist searching for missing links in the genetic history of corn has come up with a variety of square ear sweet corn that dates back nearly 10,000 years.

Dr. Walton Galinat, researcher at the University of Massachusetts Suburban Experiment Station, Waltham, Mass., made a big splash in the news media a couple years ago when preliminary results of his research was first made public. He even ended up in the pages of "People" magazine. At the time people thought there might be some commercial applications for his square sweet corn.

"People said it would be ideal for airline meals because it wouldn't roll off the plate. It would also pack better in boxes than round corn. Interest in it now, however, is more as a novelty item and as a scientific missing link to the first corn varieties," explains Galinat.

The researcher, who has grown more than 30,000 different corn varieties and crosses during his career, says the square ear was a cross between an ancient variety of wild grass corn called "teosinte" and a "Golden



Square corn is the missing link to the first corn varieties.

Bantam" variety. That cross yielded a genetic variety dating back thousands of years and provided a stepping stone to more modern varieties. The square ears have just 4 rows of kernels and a very small cob, which results in its square shape. The kernels are full-size and, according to those who've tried it, surprisingly tasty.



A large opaque projector beamed the design on the side of the building.

THEIR FRIENDS WENT TO WORK WHEN THEY WENT ON VACATION

Couple Surprised By Big Barn Paint Job

When Brad Waite and Sally Dickson returned to their farm near Fall Creek, Wis., after a week's vacation in Hawaii recently, they were surprised to see that their big red barn sported a few new colors on their return.

The huge mural was painted by a couple friends, Jay Filter and Pete Wells, who work as graphic artists in Milwaukee. The two used a large

opaque projector to project their design onto the side of the building and finished the design from that. The mural is visible from the highway. The couple had been in Hawaii where Brad competed in the Ironman Triathlon, which consists of a 112-mile bike race, a 26.23 mile run and a 2.4 mile swim.