

19 FOOTER IS "HIGHER THAN AN ELEPHANT'S EYE"

Iowa Corn Stalk Is World's Tallest

It may sound like another "tall" story but Iowa corn farmer Howard Johnson, of Anita, grew a stalk last year that measured a whopping 19 ft. 8½ in. tall.

"I've been trying to grow really tall corn for the past 10 years," says Johnson. "I'd contacted seed companies for special seed but they really didn't have anything. I even checked my fields for the tallest stalks, taking seed from them to plant the following year. That didn't get me very far, either.

"Then, I discovered an ad in the Des Moines Register for Cornnuts that mentioned that they sponsored a Tall Corn Contest and had tall corn seed available upon written request. So, I wrote to them and got my seed. The seed is a derivative of a Peruvian corn hybrid," Johnson told FARM SHOW.

"I planted the seed in my garden on May 2nd. The stalk didn't grow real fast but just seemed to keep growing. I put posts up to support it and keep the wind from blowing it over. Also, I watered it twice a week and gave it a lot of fertilizer."

Part of the agreement in the "Cornnuts Contest" was that entrants measure the corn on Sept. 1, and mail the information to the company. Johnson did that and found out he was a strong contender for having the overall champion stalk. An "official" measurement Sept. 15 confirmed him as the contest winner. Steve Sick, Fremont, Neb., was a close "runner-up".

As contest winner, Johnson was awarded \$1,000 and an expense paid trip to San Francisco. However, a prize just as important to him lies in the ear of corn his record stalk produced. It'll provide seed for the "tall stalk" he plans to grow this year.

Leaving nothing to chance, Johnson shook the pollen from the tassel into a paper bag and then attached the bag to the silk.

Linda Gebroe, a public relations representative for Cornnuts, Inc., San Francisco, Cal., notes that Johnson was "one of 2,182 entrants for the first Cornnuts Tall Corn Contest. The contest was in a five state area (Iowa, Ill., Ind., Neb., and Ohio) with the winner from each state receiving a \$200 'shopping spree' at their local supermarket."

Gebroe says plans for the 1983 Tall Corn Contest are "up in the air".

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cornnuts, Inc., Tall Corn Contest, Box 476, San Francisco, Cal. 94101.



Johnson's contest-winning corn stalk measured a whopping 19 ft. 8½ in. tall.



Photo Courtesy, The Country Today

"Suzie", said to be an ideal type Bel-Ony, stands 54 in. tall and weighs 1,000 lbs.

LESS THAN 5 FT. TALL

"Bel-Ony": New Breed Of "Mini" Draft Horses

The draft horses Eugene Tylee raises look up to their owner. Literally — because he stands taller than they do.

The Wisconsin farmer's horses have the color and conformation of Belgians — except that they stand less than 5 ft. tall, and weigh only about 900 lbs. at maturity. They're a miniature type which Tylee's breeding from a pony mare and a Belgian stallion. There are currently five offspring of that cross being raised on the farm.

Tylee calls his new breed "Bel-Ony, derived from Belgian and pony. He hopes to develop interest nation-wide in his mini-Belgian draft horses.

At present, there is no association for this cross, though there are draft pony shows in Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa. "I want to keep their height under 56 in. so they can be shown in the draft pony class," Tylee told FARM SHOW.

He's been successful in keeping the animals small but still with good draft conformation. His ideal type is "Suzie", a 3-year-old mare that stands 54 in. tall and weighs about 1,000 lbs. Suzie is the offspring of a 46-in. draft pony mare and a 68-in. Belgian stallion.

Tylee says that size difference is not a problem when a foal is born. His

veterinarian assured him that foal size is determined primarily by size of the mother. But, to avoid injury to mares at breeding time, he uses artificial insemination rather than natural service.

He hopes that his mini-Belgians will breed true in future generations and that the offspring will continue to carry the Belgian appearance and pony size. "Everything about them is Belgian except their size," he says.

Tylee uses the Bel-Ony horses for planting corn, mowing hay, and hauling manure. At first, they worked in a cut-down standard harness, but now Tylee has found custom harness makers.

There's not enough of a market to set a price for the small Belgians, but Tylee has been offered \$1,500 for Suzie, the mare. He intends to keep her, however, as his brood mare. She is now bred to his mini-Belgian stud.

Tylee hopes to develop his mini-Belgians into a separate breed or type of draft horse. They're similar to the Haflinger or the Norwegian Fjord horses that were developed for a specific use in other countries.

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