

stands in most of its crop production. The maximum corn yield that has been obtained is 370 bu/A; 35 percent of that is 130 bu/A, which is near national average. A farmer may do everything to 90 percent of perfection and yet get only 35 percent of the possible yield.

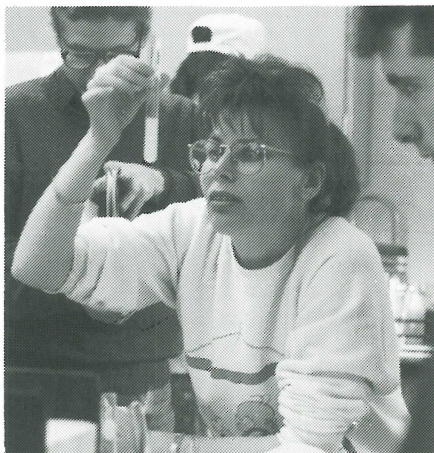
Improvement requires the pinpoint precision that laboratory diagnosis, computerized programming for decision making and expert consulting can provide. It may be little more costly to get 95 percent of perfection. But for 10 factors, the 35 percent yield would increase to 60 percent of that attainable, which for corn could be 220 bu/A. Some farmers do make it. The principles involved use the Law of the Maximum.

In reaching high yields with high precision, it is emphasized that excesses of input are avoided. Only that needed is used; environmental problems are avoided. Excess inputs may contribute to decreased yields anyway.

Careful planning is essential for farmers to obtain sufficient precision of inputs to approach the record yields, such as 370 bu/A of corn, or 6.5 tons/A (216 bu/A) of wheat, or 118 bu/A of soybeans. The effects of inputs and their interactions can be mathematically programmed. How closely record yields can be approached will depend upon skillful use of the Law of the Maximum together with use of economic and environmental principles and realities. ■

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