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University of Wisconsin  
1575 Linden Drive – Agronomy  
Madison, WI 53706

WISCONSIN  
CORN  
“PEPS”  
PROGRAM  
“Profits through Efficient  
Production Systems”  
2009



Wisconsin Corn Growers Association  
Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
UW Agronomy Department  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Agricultural Industry

August 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

New in 2009 is a PEPS award called the “Green Fields – Blue Waters” award to recognize and promote farmer stewardship. Global climate change, increasing regulations, and the food versus fuel debate have put unprecedented pressure on farmers. Farmers must remind society that they are good stewards, and that while growing corn they can conserve soil, improve water quality and produce adequate food, feed, fiber and fuel.

Two options are available to growers in the PEPS program:

- **Contest option:** The top-participant of each district and division is recognized with a plaque and cash award at the state level and in various publications.
- **Verification option:** Farmers can compare the economics of their cropping system to other farmers, and learn ways to increase competitiveness.

**New for 2009**

- 1) Three PEPS Districts
- 2) “**Green Fields – Blue Waters**” award given to a corn grower with the most sustainable production practices.

Yield and records verified in the PEPS program may also qualify for other contests such as the National Corn Yield Contest. Previous PEPS reports are found at the website:

<http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/PEPS>.

The PEPS program provides an outstanding opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, technical insight and demonstrate your farming skills. It also provides a unique method to compare the economics of your cropping systems to others.

If you have any questions, please call Colleen Smith at (608) 262-7702 or e-mail at: [clsmith8@wisc.edu](mailto:clsmith8@wisc.edu).

Have a safe and profitable growing season!

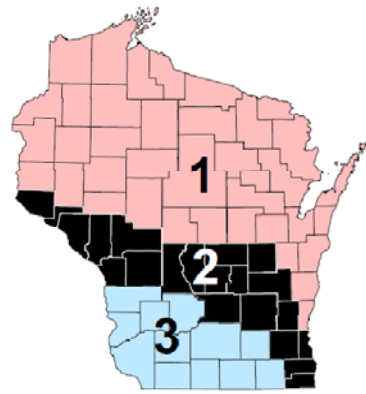
Sincerely,

**The WCGA PEPS Committee**

Tom Novak, Bruce Tourbier, Jason Henschler, and  
Crystal Romanowski, and Joe Lauer

# WISCONSIN CORN PEPS PROGRAM

ENTRY FORM  
Deadline – August 25, 2009



## “PEPS” Program Districts

### OBJECTIVES

- To recognize the practices utilized by the *most profitable and efficient* growers and to provide other growers and educators insight into ways producers integrate practices into a system.
- To emphasize *soil conservation, water quality, production efficiency, profitability and competitiveness* vs. productivity alone.

### PROGRAM RULES AND FORMAT

1. The program includes both “contest” and “verification” options (please designate desired option on entry blank).
2. The program will include *three divisions*:
  - A. Corn grain: Cash-crop**
    - 1) Corn following legume or non-legume *grain* crops (corn, soybean, small grain, etc.) or *non-legume* forages or cover crops; *no manure* applied.
    - 2) A charge for drying costs *will* be assessed.
  - B. Corn grain: Livestock**
    - 1) Corn following *forage legume or green-manure legumes* (alfalfa, red clover, etc); and/or any *manure applied* on land.
    - 2) Drying costs *will not* be assessed.

Note: Any field in which a) corn follows forage legumes or green-manure legumes or b) manure is applied can only be entered in the Livestock Division. The same field cannot be entered into both the cash crop and livestock division.
  - C. Corn silage**
3. There is *no limit* on the number of entries by a participant. Growers are encouraged to compare profitability of their managed systems (tillage systems, weed control, etc.) and crops by entering several different fields.
4. The PEPS program field (contest or verification) must be at least 10 acres in one *continuous* plot for each entry. The exception is for fields that are strip cropped or terraced. Individual crop strips, which must be at least 20 rows wide, must add up to at least 5 total acres of the crop in one continuous 10-acre field. The participant may select the best 10 acres in a field actually larger than 10 acres.
5. All fields on six percent slopes or more must be planted on the contour. Soil loss should not be higher than the tolerable “T” level designated for the soil involved. Average annual soil loss will be

computed using the Universal Soil Loss Equation and/or the Wind Erosion Equation by county NRCS personnel, and will be included in the final report.

6. The participating growers must provide accurate crop production and cost record forms. Forms will be provided to all entrants, UW-extension agents, and industry co-sponsors. For both options, the UW-Extension reserves the right to use the information in overall summaries (see website for an example).
7. Grain yield checks will be conducted by “yield-checkers” designated and approved for each county. Rules require that 1.25 or more acres must be harvested from the entered area. Harvest report forms and rules will be provided to all entrants.
8. For the contest portion of the program, placings within each district will be determined on the basis of *greatest profitability and efficiency*. Profitability will be calculated using a) the producers measured, verified yields, b) production costs obtained using PEPS program cost record forms, and c) average cash grain price based on 50% sold at harvest and 50% sold on forward contracts. *Efficiency* is calculated as lowest cost per bushel.
  - Costs for seed, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, insurance, scouting, etc. will be charged based on the figures provided by participants.
  - Nitrogen and micronutrient fertilizer costs will be those provided, however, P and K costs will be based on removal at the grain yield obtained. There will be no charge assessed for nutrients supplied by manure or previous-crop residues.
  - Equipment costs will be based on actual custom machinery hire, or on figures in the most recent publication entitled “Minnesota Farm Machinery Economic Cost Estimates,” for individual operations based on appropriate machinery size and type.
  - Drying costs in the Corn, Cash Crop Division will be estimated for each point above 15% grain moisture per dry bushel.
  - Handling, hauling and storage costs will be assessed.
  - Standard variable irrigation costs per acre-inch applied will be assessed.
  - Land costs will be assessed based on the average of 1) typical cash rents for the program field provided by the participant, and 2) a percentage of NRCS yields for the soil type. The percentage used will be derived from average estimated cash rents relative to average NRCS yields.
9. For the corn silage division, participants will be required to submit a forage sample that will be analyzed for quality using MILK2006 by the Marshfield Soil and Forage Analysis Laboratory. Placings within each district will be determined using the approach of Linn (Minnesota) where the value per ton of silage is calculated from the actual costs of production adjusted for starch and NDF digestibility derived from the quality analysis. The price of corn is used to calculate a dollar value for starch or the grain content of the silage (0.5 bushels = 1% change in starch content). Milk price is used to obtain the dollar value of the NDFD in the forage (0.6 lb of milk = 1% change in NDFD).
10. The winner of the “Green Fields – Blue Waters” award will be determined by committee using a score sheet available at <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/PEPS>.
11. The divisions will be regionalized to account for climatic variations throughout the state.
12. An entry fee of \$25 must accompany each entry. The entry fee is waived for FFA chapters. Entry deadline is August 25, 2009.
13. Participants will be informed of results as soon as they are tabulated. A plaque and \$100 cash award will be presented to the winner (most profitable and efficient) in each district for each division in the contest portion of the program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Website <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/PEPS>

Division	Number of fields entered	
	Contest	Verification
Corn, Cash Crop		
Corn, Livestock		
Corn, Silage		
Total fields x \$25 = \$ _____		
Enclose \$25 per field with this application to receive soil, crop record, and harvest forms.		
Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Corn PEPS Program.		

**Mail to:**  
Wisconsin Corn PEPS Program  
UW-Agronomy Department  
1575 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706