

Views from VanDeWalle

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Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Contest 2018 Results

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers are in high demand and will continue to be in future years. To engage youth in crop science based education, the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge (IYCC) was created as a partnership between the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Extension. Since the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge program's inception in 2012, 46 teams have participated in the program with 27 teams successfully harvesting and analyzing their plot data. A total of 138 youth have participated. This contest, open to 4-H members or FFA members, guided participants through all aspects of corn production, as well as agricultural careers related to corn production.

The 2018 winning team was the Maple Creek Creators 4-H Club of Colfax County which consisted of Korbin & Kara Kudera. They tested the use of in-furrow fertilizers and did 4 replications. They found no significant difference with their control plot yielding 233 bushels. Their project sponsor was Kevin Kudera.

Receiving second place was the Rising Stars 4-H Club from Platte County which consisted of Kade and Isaac Stromberg with Brad Stephens as their sponsor. They tested seeding rates of 30K, 33K and 27K as their check. They had two replications and found their check of 27K yielded the highest at 257.36 bu/acre which was also the most economical.

Third place went to the Lost Creek 4-H Club from Colfax County which consisted of Logan, Gavin, and Rylan Nelson with Steve Nelson as their sponsor. They tested NemaStrike corn seed treatment since it is a new product that will give great nematode control. End results were that both treatments had the exact same yield of 239 bu/acre. The NemaStrike treatment cost \$9.79/acre so in this case, they were better off with the untreated.

Also, completing their plot was: Shelton FFA team consisted of Jacob Synder and Andrew Rayburn with Hannah Horak as their advisor. The main topic of their research was plant growth regulators, stimulants and biologicals and they tested Nachur's SRN product. They had 3 reps and found that the Nachur's SRN yielded 217.94 and no treatment yielded 217.16, so essentially no difference, but there was a \$15/acre cost for the Nachur's SRN. The Kornhusker Kids 4-H Club included Kaleb and Landon Hasenkamp, Matthew and James Rolf, Levi Schiller, Ian and Payton Schiller with their plot located in Dodge County. They worked with UNL on an in-season nitrogen management program that had 4 treatments. They were hoping to validate that by variable rate applying nitrogen according to what the plant need, they would be able to more efficiently use nitrogen. Their results showed that the grower strips were the best return on investment with a yield of 213 bu/acre. The Climate treatment yielded 213 bu/acre. The Project SENSE treatment yielded 210 bu/acre and reference strip yielded 224 bu/acre. Also, it is important to note is that this team randomized their treatments and had 3 replications of the plots which is important in figuring out the statistical significance. Their project sponsor was Chris Schiller. The final team completing their project was the Fillmore Central FFA team consisted of Brock & Carson Tatro, Jared Engle, Gunner Gewecke, Conner Nun, Kaylea Geiser and KayLynn Sieber with Kurt VanDeWalle as their sponsor. They wanted to test seeding rates to see if there would be an



increased yield without having poorer stalk quality. They tested seeding rates at 35K and 32K and found that the 35K yielded 229 bu/ac and 32K yielded 280 bu/acre.

Other teams that participated but due to unfortunate circumstances were unable to finish their project included:

- Doniphan-Trumbull FFA Chapter
- North Branch Rancheros & Clover Catchers 4-H Clubs from Otoe County 4-H
- Wood River FFA Chapter
- Busker Farm from Thurston/Dixon/Dakota 4-H Program
- Halter Holders 4-H Club from Clay County
- Norris FFA Chapter

As a team, youth worked with an adult mentor throughout the process. Mentors can be extension faculty, ag teachers, or other qualified agronomy professionals.

Other awards handed out during the banquet held on UNL's East Campus included:

The Extra Mile Award went to : Maple Creek 4-H Club.

The Innovation Award, worth \$200, was presented to the Kornhusker Kids 4-H Club.

The Sustainability Award went to Kornhusker Kids 4-H Club (dryland) which is a \$200 award. This utilized the Field to Market tool which is a leading multi-stakeholder initiative that is working to unite the agricultural supply chain in defining, measuring and advancing the sustainability of food, fiber and fuel production in the United States.

To participate in 2019, youth must complete and return an entry form by March 15th to the Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, NE. Forms can be downloaded at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/youth/cornchallenge>. For more information, contact Brandy VanDeWalle at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu.