2022 Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing (PSNT) Program Final Results

PSNT helps determine if additional nitrogen is needed to reach the desired yield goals, limit and in some cases eliminate excess nitrogen from entering surface water entities such as adjacent streams and may end up saving the farmer money or what's saved can be put towards other operation expenses. Testing is most effective when the corn is approximately knee high. Soil samples are collected by walking in a zigzag pattern and inserting a soil probe into the ground around a foot. Cumberland County's 2022 PSNT Program had 132 fields equaling a total of 2,304 acres tested. 21 farmers participating and just two farmers required additional nitrogen. If all the farmers participating needed a nitrogen recommendation and would follow our calculated recommendation, we would save around 247,432 lbs. of excess nitrogen from being applied to the fields and potentially entering the Chesapeake Bay. This, on average, would save each participating farmer $5,891 at current nitrogen prices. This would be a big step in helping Cumberland County reach its goal to reduce its current nutrient pollution by 2.205 million pounds of nitrogen per year. The efforts of the PSNT program would get us below the 2 million pound mark of pollution, which is great progress.

Picture 1. The Cumberland County Conservation District Interns. Left- Jacob Goudsward Right- Rebecca Wenschhof.

Picture 2. Shows all the soil samples taken during the PSNT Program.

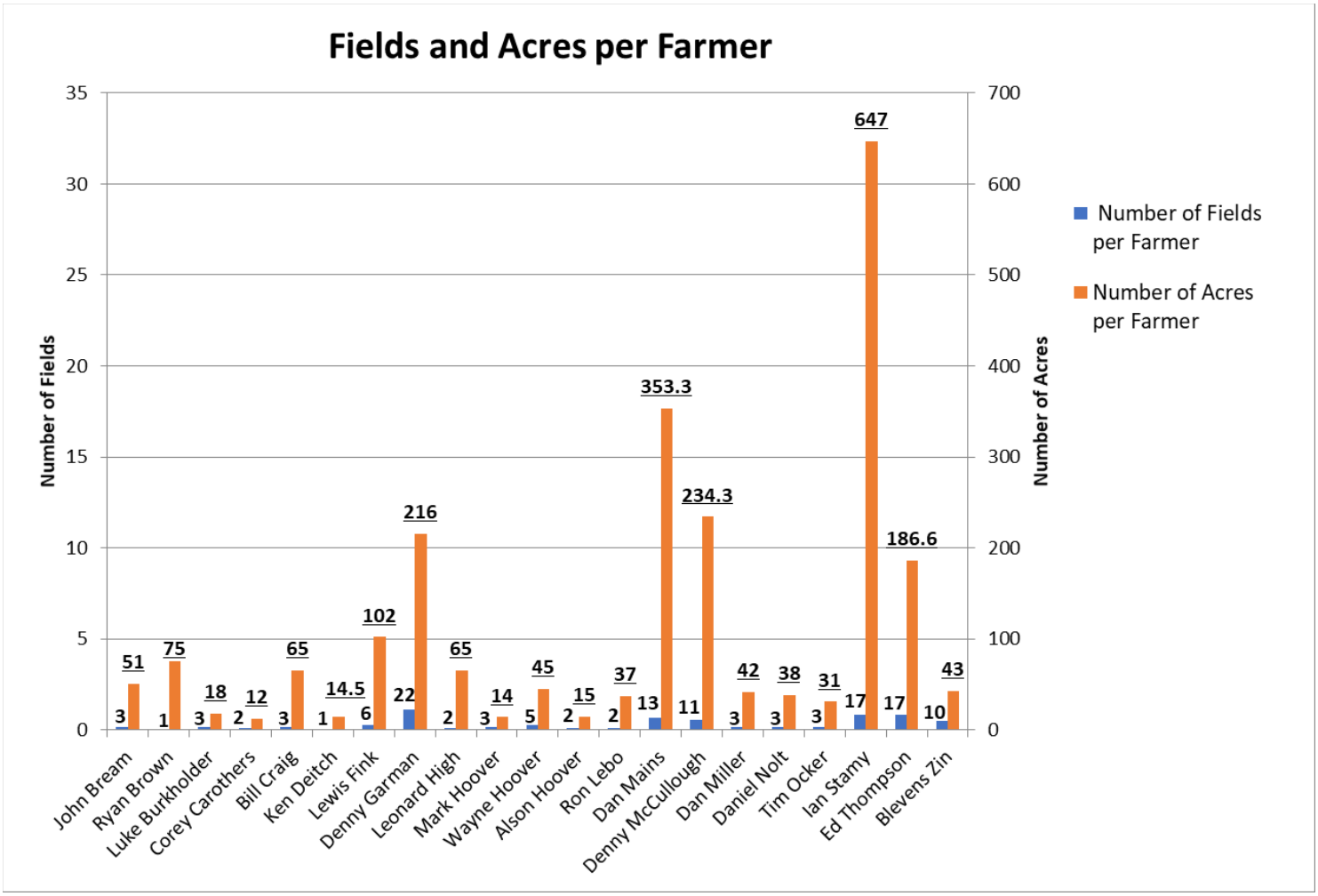

Figure 1. Captures the collected data in a bar graph. The underlined numbers are the acres per farmer, while the lower numbers are the fields per farmer.