Burrus Buzz

Delivering more than just seed

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New Production Technique Adds to Grower Profitability

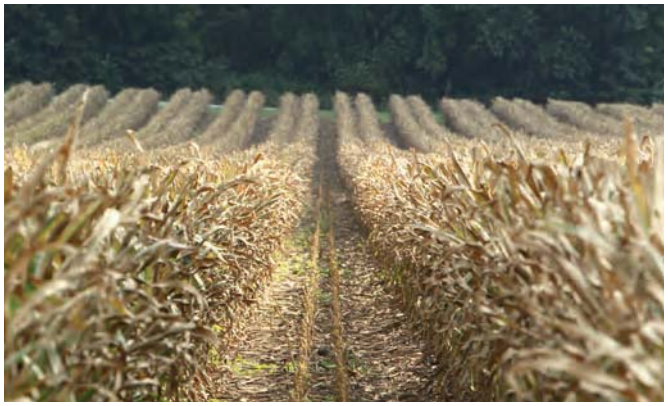
by Tom Burrus, President & Owner

For nearly 45 years, Burrus has used an interplant seed corn production system which allowed utilization of every acre for female rows. We planted a solid acreage of 38 inch female rows and split every other pair of females with a male row on 19 inch centers. Once pollination was completed, we would mow down the males.

When some of our highest yielding hybrids were not getting enough sunlight for the males to function properly using the interplant system, the Burrus production staff worked to find a solution. They introduced a new wide row seed corn production system where all rows were 38 inches apart with each pair of female rows flanked by a male, allowing the male to perform much better.

In 2016, we split the males 10 inches apart using one pusher planter and one trailing unit. Sometimes we make two plantings of male rows a few days apart to spread the pollen load. Another way we can widen the pollen shed window is by using a plant growth regulator called BioNik™. This seed treatment delays germination without the risk of a potential rain delay. The 2016 planting system proved to work even better than the previous.

Innovation has long been a trademark at Burrus. Our new planting pattern allows us to economically produce high yielding hybrids that other companies cannot do using a standard 30 inch corn planter in a 4:1 planting pattern. "This system does two very positive things for our customers; first, we don't have to allocate or limit how many units a customer can buy and second, seed field yields are high enough to make the products economically feasible," said Kevin Burrus.



Wide row seed production on August 17 after detasseling and male rows have been destroyed, female rows ready for harvest.

A specialized male row planter for the new wide row seed corn production system. GPS allows the male to be planted before or after the female rows.