



THESE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS of the Lancaster County 4-H Poultry Judging Team get some of the fine points explained to them by Carl O Dossin, extension poultry specialist of Penn State. He and As-

sociate County Agent Harry S. Sloat gave the boys and girls a preliminary work-out Tuesday night at the farm of H Raymond Stoner, 1051 Eden Rd., Lancaster (LF Photo)

Plant Food Educational Council Organized Recently at Penn State

Designed to foster and promote useful and practical information regarding all forms of plant food, soil amendments and their use on crops, the Pennsylvania Plant Food Educational Council was recently organized at the Pennsylvania State University.

President is Arthur A. Schultz, fertilizer manufacturer, Reading, vice-president, Howard B Sprague, head of the department of agronomy, Penn State; and treasurer, Roger C. Smith, Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, West Springfield, Mass.

If a farmer understands and applies a few simple principles of crop fertilization, he will increase his returns and profits, asserted M. S. Williams of the National Plant Food Institute, speaking at the organizational meeting. The best way for a farm-

er to find out how much fertilizer to use is to have a test applied to his soil.

Need for completion of a soil mapping program for Pennsylvania was stressed by Dr. Sprague. Around \$130 million are spent annually in the state for feed and only \$31 million for fertilizer. More should be spent for fertilizer and more feed grown at home, he feels. Soil maps are needed he said to determine the general area in which more fertilizer is needed.

Advantages from the use of the newer, more productive hybrids and strains of farm crops are available only where soil fertility is high, these men agree. Ability of a corn hybrid to yield must be supported by plenty of available plant food. At low fertility levels, hybrid corn is no better than old open-pollinated varieties.

Fertilizer Use Dropped Last Year For First Time in U.S. History

The total supply of nitrogen, phosphates, and potash for the 12 months ended June 30 is currently estimated to have been slightly less than for the previous year, according to the Fertilizer situation yearly review.

This estimate is based on industry's reported rates of production rather than on capacity to produce, since capacity is in excess of actual output. Also there were substantial increases in exports of phosphorus and potash.

The 1956-57 fertilizer season was slow in starting. Throughout much of the fertilizer year, great sections of the country suffered from extreme drought. During the first and second quarters, reports from the mid-South, mid-West and Southwest indicated severe crop damage due to high temperatures and lack of moisture.

In the Northeast vegetable crops and pastures were hit by dry weather.

Spring deliveries — March to April — were reported to be spotty with some price cutting, due in part to the slow market. Heavy spring rains, even disastrous

floods in some areas, prevented farmers from spreading fertilizer.

More normal rainfall in sections of the mid-West, on the other hand, caused an upturn in movement in these sections.

It is expected that growing demand for all fertilizers will result from increased use in present farm operations as well as from numerous new practices.

The impact of the Soil Bank, and the resulting acreage drop, has not been in effect long enough to be felt. However, it is expected that farmers will use more fertilizer on a reduced acreage.

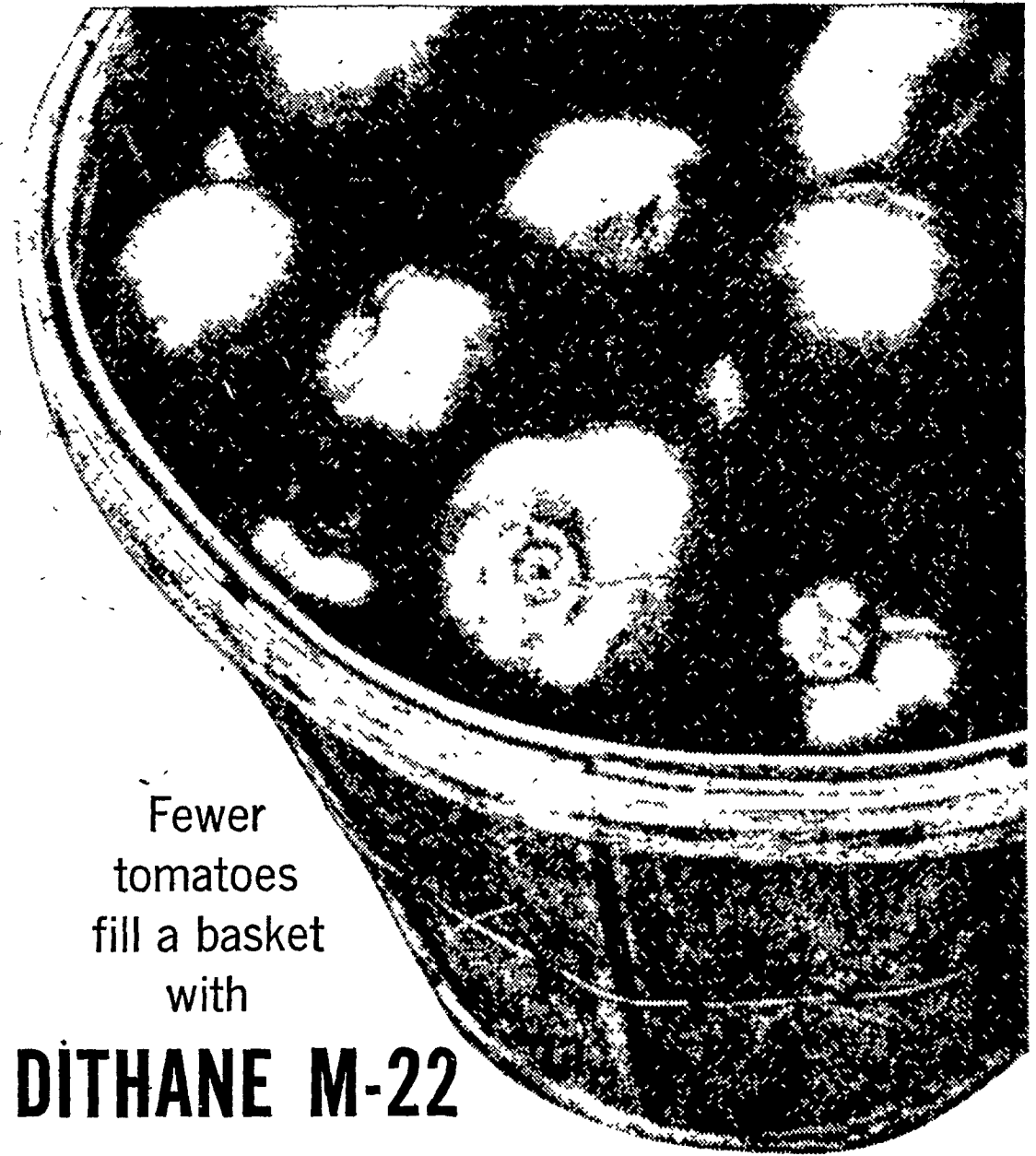
This is the first year in history that total fertilizer use has shown a drop.

The greatest drop has been in the use of nitrogen, nearly 60,000 tons and in the use of phosphorus, 37,000 tons. Potash use remained steady at 1,875,000 tons.

Supplies of all fertilizer materials are expected to be in either equal or greater supply for the coming year than for the past year.

It is expected that the trend in using higher analysis fertilizer materials will continue.

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Last summer I reported in Chicken Chatter a method of treatment for lice which we have been using for several years with excellent results. Since then we have had so many requests for that information that I am repeating it once more.

The treatment consists of spraying the birds with a mixture of lindane and water. Lindane 20% (manufactured by Vineland Laboratories), is used. Mix one level tablespoon of lindane with one quart of water. This will treat 500 or more hens for a cost of less than 10¢. The birds are sprayed at night when on the roosts with the aid of a flashlight. Be sure every bird is hit, including any that may be in the nests or on the floor, or they will soon reinfest the flock. The birds will cough and sneeze when the spray passes over them but this does not seem to hurt them in any way. A 2 or 3 gallon knap-sack sprayer is used.

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