

● Limestone

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of our country which had allowed the soil to deteriorate showed a much higher rejection rate because of poor teeth, poor bone structure and poor health generally than those in areas with mineral rich soil.

While the restoration of 591 million tons of limestone since the start of the Agricultural Conservation Program in 1936 to the soil may seem like a project only helping the farmers of the Nation, it has actually improved the health of all the Nation's consumers. Without this additive to the millions of acres of cropland, we would have been forced to buy more vitamins and calcium at the drugstore, or we would have suffered the consequences of reduced health for our Nation's citizens.

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Alfalfa Variety Found Resistant To Weevils

A strain of Algerian alfalfa that is resistant to egg laying by the adult alfalfa weevil could provide the breeding stock needed to develop desirable weevil-resistant alfalfas.

The importance of this finding is magnified by the fact that this destructive pest is developing resistance to insecticides. Weevils cause millions of dollars of damage to alfalfa crops each year, and all commercial varieties that have been tested are susceptible to the weevil.

North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and ARS scientists found that adult alfalfa weevils lay very few eggs in the stems of the Algerian alfalfa (gaetula).

Larvae of the alfalfa weevil do more damage to alfalfa crops than adults do. An alfalfa plant that does not provide adults with suitable egg-laying sites, however, would have a form of resistance because it would interfere with the normal life cycle of the weevil.

W. V. Campbell, State entomologist, and J. W. Dudley, ARS plant geneticist, found in laboratory and greenhouse tests that adult weevils tend to ignore gaetula. This alfalfa is not commercially acceptable, but Dudley believes that the characters that make

it weevil resistant can be transferred to commercial varieties. Considerable breeding effort will be required to develop a desirable alfalfa that will retain a high degree of weevil resistance.

By following laboratory and greenhouse testing, the scientists could manipulate the insect population and evaluate adult weevil performance for feeding and egg laying in the absence of larval damage. Plants were exposed to an adult weevil population far greater than is normally found in the field.

The scientists do not yet know why the alfalfa weevil *Hypera postica* (Gyll), largely avoids gaetula but they believe that stem type may have something to do with egg laying. *M. intertexta* has nearly hollow square-shaped stems that provide a large cavity for the weevil's eggs. Gaetula has round, nearly solid stems. Thus, it is more difficult for the female weevil to excavate a cavity in the stem of gaetula before she can deposit eggs.

Of every six persons who get cancer today, two will be saved and four will die. Two will be cured through prompt diagnosis and treatment. One will die who might have been saved if only he or she had received medical attention in time. The American Cancer Society urges annual health checkups for all adults.

Study Non-Protein Nitrogen In Rations

"The time may come when proteins, such as provided in soybean meal, will not be in great enough supply for use in rations of meat animals. Instead, they will go into human diets," says William H. Pfander, professor of animal husbandry, Missouri Univ.

Pfander explains that the world is already short of protein, and that the situation is expected to become more aggravated in the face of increasing populations.

Pfander is conducting cooperative regional and state research which is designed to find ways and means whereby meat animals can best use non-protein nitrogen in rations as a replacement for materials such as soybean meal.

Ruminant animals, such as cattle and sheep, can convert non-protein nitrogen to protein in the digestive process, he says. Urea, a product presently in use by livestock feeders, is an example of a non-protein nitrogen.

A factor limiting the increased use of such products is insufficient knowledge about the steps involved in converting non-protein nitrogen to protein which ruminants can use.



PHARES AUKER JOINS BABCOCK

Bruce Babcock, owner of Babcock Hatchery of Lititz, Pennsylvania, announced recently the appointment of Phares Auker of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania to the Babcock sales staff in Pennsylvania.

Auker comes to Babcock with fourteen years experience in the poultry industry as a sales representative for a Lancaster County hatchery, and as a successful started pullet grower.

His territory will cover some eight counties in Pennsylvania and parts of Northern Maryland. He will report to Russ Mease, Manager of Babcock Hatchery, Lititz.



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