

Profitability Of High Rates Of Fertilizer On Corn Questioned

HARRISBURG — Profitable corn production does not always depend on high rates of fertilizer application, James H. Eakin, chairman of agronomy extension at The Pennsylvania State University, told members of the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association at their annual meeting in Harrisburg Tuesday.

Eakin said, "Forty pounds of nitrogen costing \$4.80 might return \$15, a second 40 pounds about \$9, and a third 40 pounds only \$3. Obviously the third 40 pounds would not be profitable if the farmer had to pay \$4.80 for its purchase and application."

If the price of corn dropped from \$1.25 to \$1.00 per bushel, farmers would find it more profitable to use less fertilizer, Eakin reported. On the other hand, if the price of fertilizer dropped, it would be more profitable to use more of it.

Residual carryover of fertilizer is important, he pointed out. Very little nitrogen

is carried over to the next crop, but there is considerable carryover of phosphorus and potassium. This is why it is important to consider all crops in the rotation in determining whether an added yield from fertilizer will return more than its cost.

When there is ample short term capital available, Eakin said, farmers may wish to try for yields where a dollar's worth of fertilizer will just return a dollar's worth of corn. However, if capital is limited, they should try for yields where the last dollar spent for fertilizer gives a return equal to what it would give if invested some other place, either on or off the farm.

● Farm Calendar

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 Agricultural Teachers meet at Lampeter-Strasburg High School — 8 p.m., Lancaster County Swine Producers Assn meets at Farm Credit Bldg Educational meeting — Subject "Hog Housing — Farrowing Through Finish-

ing."
 February 2 — 2, 3, and 4, Lime and Fertilizer Conference, Nittany Lion, Penn State University.
 February 3 — 1 p.m., Chester County Dairy Clinic at Coatesville YWCA — "Inheritance and Selection." — 7 p.m., Ephrata Adult Farmers Dairy Field Trip. — 7.30 p.m., Lancaster County Poultry Assn annual meeting at Farm Credit Bldg, 411 W. Roseville Rd, Lancaster.
 February 6 — 6th through 10th National Assn Conservation District directors 20th annual convention, New Orleans, La.

● Swine Producers

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 Road, just off Route 72 (Manheim Pike). All interested persons are invited to attend.

SPRING CARCASS SHOW
 The Association will hold its annual Spring Carcass Show, beginning with an on-foot evaluation contest on Monday, March 14, at the Lancaster Union Stock Yards at 1 p.m. As in the past, everyone is invited to record their estimates of carcass length, backfat, loineye size,

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and ham-loin percentage. Prizes will be offered for the best score.

The hogs will be slaughtered on Tuesday, and the carcasses will be evaluated at Kunzler & Co. on Wednesday. Prizes will also be given for the best-scoring carcass.

An Association spokesman emphasized that the carcass show is open to commercial hog raisers as well as pure-bred breeders. There's no better way to find the cut-out value of your animals, he said.

ANNUAL BANQUET MEET

The county swine producers will hold their annual banquet meeting on Friday, March 18, at the Blue Ball Fire Hall. A ham supper will be served family style

Anyone interested in further details on any of these upcoming activities is advised to contact John Henkel, Strasburg R1, or James Z. Martin, Christiana R1.

● Crop Meeting

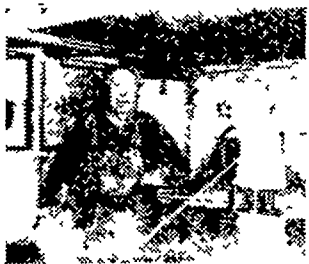
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 corn yields were presented by T. A. Doebler, Doebler Hybrids. Agri sales representative B. G. Holtman was in charge of the meeting. Also on hand were Agri area sales and warehouse representatives Roy W. Zimmerman and Lester M. Weaver.

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