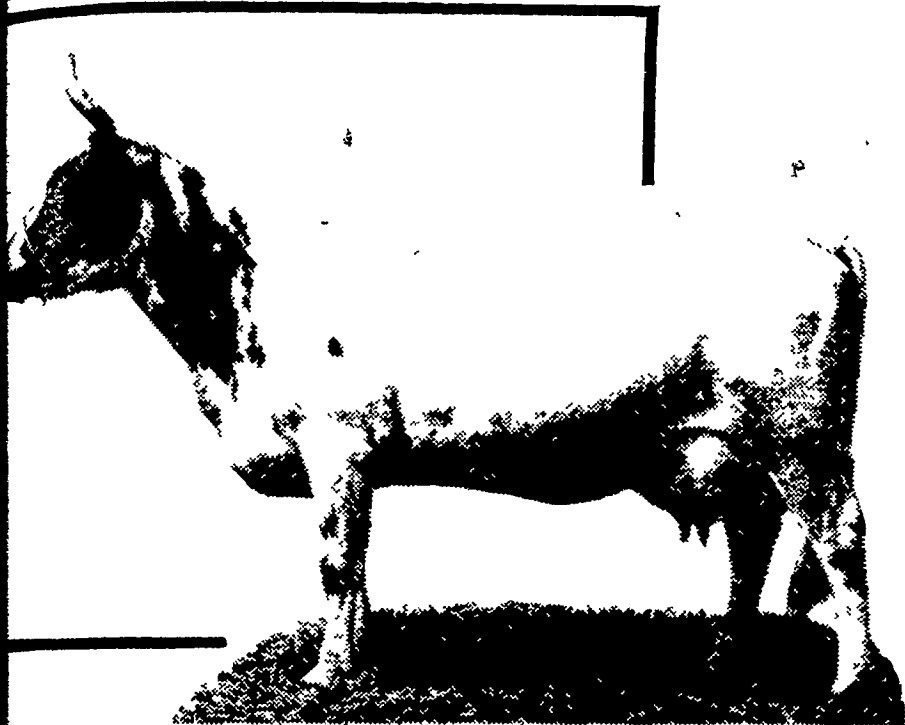


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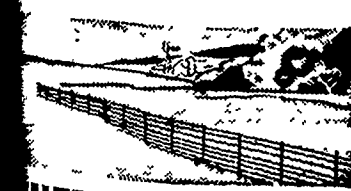
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Fall Good Time To Test Soil, But Risky Time To Apply Fertilizer

The fall season is an excellent time of year to take soil samples, according to Maryland soil specialist, Dr. V. Allan Bandel.

Soil analysis in the fall gives you plenty of time to plan next year's lime and fertilizer program, Bandel said.

However, he added, winter weather in many eastern sections of the country will rob soils of much of the nitrogen applied in the fall. Many farmers have been following this practice, Bandel said.

Bandel criticized this practice, saying, "Much of the nitrogen is subject to being lost before spring. Some states have reported over 50 percent of fall-applied nitrogen lost during the winter," he said.

If fertilizer is to be plowed down in the fall, the agronomist said, apply only phosphorus and potash. The nitrogen should be disced in prior to corn planting time next

spring. On steep slopes, or other places where erosion is a problem, fall plowing is a dangerous practice because the land has no cover to hold the soil in place, he stated.

On a few extremely heavy, clay soils, where erosion is not a problem, fall plowing does have some advantages, Bandel said. "For one thing, it lets you get into the field earlier in the spring, and the freezing and thawing during the winter will help to break up clods, he said. "The clay and humus particles react chemically with the fertilizer nutrients and hold them firmly even during rainy weather."

Bandel also pointed out that fall fertilization of corn ground helps spread a farmer's work load.

● Wheat Stocks

(Continued from Page 1)
were at the highest October 1 level since 1955.

Hybrid Wheat Feed Advantages Seen For Penna.

Development of hybrid wheat could revolutionize the eastern wheat industry, declared Robert P. Pfeifer, small grains breeder for the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State University, during the annual meeting of the International Crop Improvement Association held recently in Rochester, N. Y.

Not only will hybrid wheat increase farmers' yields over present varieties, he claimed, but it will also create a market for 50 million bushels of hybrid seed in the United States each year.

With present varieties, most farmers buy a small amount of wheat seed and use this to grow their own seed for succeeding crops. With hybrids, all seed wheat will be grown and processed annually by the seed industry, a major change, Pfeifer pointed out. He added that the wheat seed requirement for the world could exceed 400 million bushels a year.

He predicted that hybrid wheat may be available for Pennsylvania by 1971. In trials at Penn State, 21 experimental hybrids yielded 67 percent more grain than the seven parent varieties used to make the hybrids.

Yields of 100 bushels per acre, believed possible, should enable Pennsylvania farmers to feed their wheat to their own animals and poultry and also sell to the food grain market. With present yields ranging from 30 to 70 bushels per acre, most Pennsylvania farmers sell their wheat for flour.

All wheat in storage on October 1 totaled 1,440 million bushels—the smallest October 1 stocks since 1952. Holdings were 16 percent less than a year earlier and 31 percent below the October 1 average. Most of the decline from last year occurred in off-farm stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 899 million bushels, were 22 percent below a year earlier and the lowest in 14 years. Farm stocks totaled 541 million bushels, 4 percent below last year but 16 percent above average. About 30 percent of the total October 1 stocks were either owned by the Government or under Government loan compared with 47 percent a year earlier.

Old corn carryover stocks on October 1 totaled 866 million bushels—26 percent less than a year earlier, 48 percent less than average, and the smallest October stocks since 1953. Indicated disappearance of 948 million bushels during the July-September quarter is 24 percent larger than for the same months in 1965 and 10 percent larger than in 1964.

PENNSYLVANIA STOCKS
All grain stocks stored in both on-farm and off-farm positions on October 1, 1966 totaled 444 million bushels, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. This is 8 percent less than the October 1965 stocks figure. Feed grain stocks (corn, oats, and barley) declined 7 percent and food grains (wheat and rye) declined 9 percent from a year earlier.

WHEAT
Wheat stocks of 131 million bushels in all positions were down 9 percent from October 1965. Stocks in on-farm positions were up 11 percent but in off-farm positions down 20 percent.

CORN
Old crop corn stocks in all positions totaled 88 million bushels. Off-farm stocks were 8 percent less than a year earlier but on-farm stocks were 68 percent more than October 1965. Corn stocks were the highest since 1961, the last year Pennsylvania farmers enjoyed adequate precipitation during the growing season.

● Melvin Stoltzfus

(Continued from Page 6)
a record of 315d, 15,160m, 623f. And a pair of two-year-olds, Cherrycrest Superior Charm and Cherrycrest Superior Patsy, have completed records of 577 and 528 pounds of butterfat, respectively, under milking parlor conditions in 326 days, or less.

Melvin Stoltzfus likes his new system. "The main thing that I had to learn though was that you can let a cow out in the cold of winter and she will still come in and give a bucket of milk," he concluded.

OATS
A sharp drop in oats production reduced oats stocks 29 percent on October 1966 compared with a year earlier. Total oats stocks of 154 million bushels were the lowest since 1943, when a very poor oats crop was harvested.