

Good Soil Management Needed If Irrigation Used, Specialist Says

Farmers planning to use irrigation practices should understand that purchases of a pump, pipe, and sprinkler are not the cure for poor soil management, says an extension agricultural engineer at Penn State University.

N. Henry Wooding told farm advisors and farm equipment dealers attending a Sprinkler Irrigation Conference on the University Park campus this week that irrigation will not materially increase yields unless crop producers use adequate lime and fertilizer, and control weeds, diseases and insect pests.

"Many Commonwealth farmers are finding that irrigation helps to lower their unit cost of production," the engineer reported. "In some instances, yields have been increased by as much as 25 to 30 percent. The wise use, or misuse, of equipment usually has an influence on annual income."

If an adequate source of water is not available, perhaps capital should be diverted to other crop management techniques, Wooding cautioned. Irrigation should be used only

when an ample supply of water is available.

Commenting on the amounts of water that should be applied, he said most Pennsylvania soils can absorb about one-half inch of moisture per hour. Higher application rates usually associated with large nozzles may pack the soil and cause erosion.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Did you know that many of the modern improvements in the automobile were first initiated on bikes: pneumatic tires was one such development. For safety, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Traffic Safety urges motorists and cyclists alike to check the tires on their vehicles for worn spots or breaks in the sidewall April is Bicycle Safety Month in Pennsylvania.

Every person is composed of three characters. The one he is, the one he thinks he is, the one he should be.

Age often lessens the joy of living, but seldom the desire.

Angus Assn. Reports Gain In Registrations

Registrations of purebred Angus calves were up again in March compared to the same month a year ago, boosting the total for the first half of fiscal 1967 to a new record high, reports Glen Bratcher, secretary of the American Angus Association, St. Joseph, Missouri.

For the six months ended March 31, Angus registrations stood at 212,930 head, up 3.91% from the first half of 1966. Transfers of 170,338 were down 7.61% from last year's unprecedented high.

"Three important factors that were not anticipated six months or a year ago account for this decline in sales," Glen Bratcher said. "These are the continued depressed fat cattle market, drought conditions in many western states that account for a large range bull market, and the USDA's recent upward revision in total beef cow numbers. All of these factors are temporary, and the continued increase in registrations of new calves indicates our breeders' faith in the future of the cattle business."

Increased interest in breeding higher quality, more efficient cattle is shown by the production measure information just released by the Association's Breed Improvement department, he notes.

Some 52,588 head of animals have been weighed and graded in the Angus Heifer Improvement Records (AHIR) program, since its beginning. The figures show conclusively that breeders can successfully select for both high quality and rapid gains.

The top 25% of the bulls that were creep fed until weaning averaged 535 pounds, adjusted at 205 days of age. They had an adjusted daily gain of 2.32 pounds, and graded average choice. The low 25% of this same group weighed 363 pounds for a 1.48 pounds daily gain, and graded low choice.

There is also an important variation in the top and bottom 25% of the yearling bulls that have been weighed and classified. The top group at 365 days weighed 963 pounds for an adjusted daily gain of 2.83 pounds and they classified

83.2. The bottom quarter weighed 675 pounds for 2.05 pounds per day and classified an average of 79.4. Figuring the value of these bulls at steer prices and using 30c for the top animals and 25c for the bottom, the difference would be \$120 per animal.

On heifer calves the top 25% with no creep or nurse cow weaned at 475 pounds, gained 2.02 pounds a day, and graded average choice. The bottom 25% of this group weighed 335 pounds, had a 1.34 pound daily gain and graded low choice.

The top heifers got to breeding weight much earlier and also graded higher. The best 25% weighed 755 pounds at 365 days, had a 2.26 pound daily gain, and classified 83.9. The bottom group weighed only 522 pounds as yearlings for a 1.63 pound daily gain and classified 80.9.

These figures make two important points, according to Lyle Springer, director of Breed Improvement for the American Angus Association. First they prove that faster gaining cattle can be selected for right along with excellent type and conformation, and that the top end of the Angus breed has a tremendous potential for improving both quality and efficiency in the beef cattle industry.

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has started but has been impeded by wet fields. In Lancaster County tobacco growers are "steaming" seed beds. This is a process for sterilizing soil.

Most hay fields have greened up and are starting to grow. Some winter damage has been noted in the southeastern section of the state. Most stands look very good and could produce a heavy first cutting despite some spottiness because of last summer's drought. Pastures are green and making good growth.

Preliminary reports from state fruit growers indicate peaches were damaged by cold weather on Feb. 6 and 7 and again on Palm Sunday. The Adams-Franklin-York section appears to have escaped with less damage than the Berks-Lehigh area. Apples and cherries were not so advanced in bud development as peaches and escaped with a minimum of damage.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

April is Bicycle Safety Month in Pennsylvania. Much of the responsibility for the safety of the bicycle rider is that of the motorists. Drive defensively, when behind the wheel of your car. Be prepared to stop. Don't count on the bicycle rider stopping.



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The official 363-day production of Strickst Ivanhoe Cherry totaled 23,395 lbs of milk and 1,045 lbs of butterfat. "Cherry" started her record at the age of 5 years and 6 months. She was sired by Osborndale Ivanhoe, a bull that has earned a Gold Medal Sire recognition.

Star Mata Hays produced 22,782 lbs of milk and 1,041 lbs of butterfat in 365 days. She was sired by Minnequa Hays, a bull that has earned a Silver Medal Production Sire recognition. Her record was started at the age of 7 years and 11 months.

Both "Cherry" and "Hays" were milked twice daily and bred in the Aungst herd.

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