



Ultra-modern equipment in the new Soils Testing Laboratory at The Pennsylvania State University will enable technicians to analyze over 100,000

soil samples annually. Laboratory analysis includes pH, lime requirement, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium.

● Soil Testing

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soil type names reflect these characteristics. Commonwealth soils will be divided into five groups. A yield potential for each crop within each soil group has been established," Dr. Hinsh emphasized.

The new program will also include a research phase, the specialist said. Computers will make it possible to automatically store analytical data. Periodically, studies will be made using this information. These will include the nutrient status of counties and their soil types, and the relationship of potassium and magnesium. These data will be very useful to homeowners and farmers in localized areas.

"This program," the agronomist pointed out, "may now be linked with the Pennsylvania Soil Survey data to provide agricultural industry personnel, farmers, planning commissions, and highway builders with a wealth of information on our soils."

Pennsylvania farmers were brought into the "computer age" in 1957 when Dairy Herd Improvement Association records were first processed by machine. More recently, two successful programs, linear programming and farm record analysis, have been possible by the computer, Hinsh said.

The Penn State soil testing program which is under the supervision of Soil Analyst Robert J. Thomas has analyzed over a half-million soil samples since the program was initiated in 1951. The program is coordinated by county agricultural agents located in each

Sugar Is The Cause Of Mexican Deaths

Although milk received the big black headlines as the reported cause of some 17 deaths in Tijuana, Mexico, recently, authorities now reveal that the cause of death was sugar contaminated by the insecticide parathion. It was finally discovered that the sugar used in making the "sweet bread," which earlier had been found to be the foodstuff at fault, had been stored in a government warehouse next to the insecticides.

Unfortunately, the discovery that the bread, and the sugar, were the cause of the unfortunate deaths did not receive the same headline treatment as the original wire service stories quoting authorities as saying this poisoning was "definitely" caused by milk. It seems milk is a much bigger story!

of the 67 counties.

Those taking part in the dedication ceremonies Sept. 27 included: State Senator D. Elmer Hawbaker, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Dr. Walter I. Thomas, head of the Penn State Department of Agronomy; Dr. John W. Bratzler, professor of animal nutrition; Dr. William L. Bull, and Robert J. Thomas. Henning, professor emeritus of animal science and former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture; Robert E. Lenker, executive assistant for the General State Authority, Harrisburg; Dr. Darrell E. Walker, head of the Penn State Department of Horticulture; Dr. Hinsh; Dr. Larson; Secretary

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September Milk Production Below Year Ago

September was generally a pleasant month with summer like temperatures during the day and mostly cool nights. Most areas received several light rains during the month. Some areas had virtually torrential rains at times but this ran off rapidly and had little effect.

Prospects for a huge corn crop for the State improved throughout the month. Each warm day and each night without a general frost helped corn mature. Early planted corn is now generally mature. During the month ensilage corn and corn for grain made excellent growth. Fewer acres are needed this year to fill silos, and

diversion will be from silage to grain.

Milk cows on Pennsylvania farms during September produced 532 million pounds of milk — a decline of 14 million pounds from September 1966, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. September milk production was 24 million pounds below the 1961-65 average, and 27 million pounds less than the record high for the month in 1962 and 1965.

The number of milk cows on Pennsylvania farms in September averaged 734,000. Milk cow numbers are down approximately three percent from September 1966 and 14 percent from the September '961-65 average.

August production per cow was 725 pounds or five pounds above September 1966 and 69 pounds above the five-year average.

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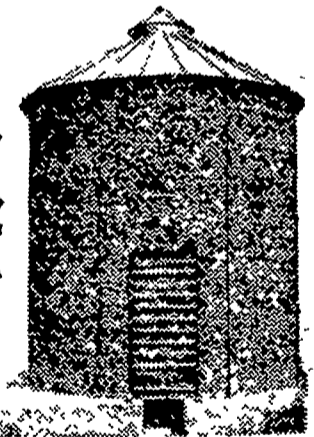
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