

Ortho Meeting Features Dr. R. M. Thorup

A group of local farmers were told that it is important to fertilize on a per plant population basis rather than per acre at an Ortho fertilizer meeting held Monday evening at the Meadow Hills Dining Hall.

Dr. R. M. Thorup, Ortho agronomist from Madison, Wis., stressed precision fertilization—putting the fertilizer at the right place and at the right time so the plants can use it.

In his speech, "Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right," Dr. Thorup said, "Now, if you're thinking about cutting back on your fertilizer application for next year's crop because of the low price this year, this is also WRONG!"

"Why is it wrong?" he asked. "First, because plants know nothing about economics! They cannot and will not cut back on their nutritional requirements simply because their produce is selling for a low price. They still must receive an adequate supply of plant food to produce a crop."

Thorup added, "Second, because this year's production was HIGH. The average corn yield was 76.6 bushels/acre compared to 66.3 as an average for the years 1961-1965. The average soybean yield was 24.6 bushels/acre compared with the 5 year average of 24.2. This means that your fields will start the 1968 season at a nutrient level just as low, or lower than they have in the past, because of the increased nutrient consumption by this year's crop."

"Finally, because YOU cannot AFFORD a reduction in the average yield per acre of crops grown on your farm! In spite of low crop prices, statistics still show that the PROFITS you realize from your farming operation on INCREASE markedly with increasing FERTILIZER application!" he concluded.

The meeting was attended by 75 farmers.

Purina's Swine Meeting Draws 300 Farmers

Richard Hollandbeck, extension swine specialist, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., told a group of 300 area farmers present at Purina's Big Pig Pow Wow meeting, Tuesday, that you can pick the day you want your sows to farrow by using a drug to regulate heat periods.

Speaking to the all-day meeting in the American Legion Hall in Palmyra, Hollandbeck said they have records where artificial insemination got better conception rates than natural breeding. "But it takes management," he said. He listed some of the problems as semen storage (can be kept only 3 or 4 days) and research (most work has been done on dairy cattle and little on swine).

Other speakers included D. E. Christiansen, A. J. Nuver, P. W. Schumacher and P. W. Widel, all of the Purina research and products team, and W. R. Prafka of the Yeager & Sullivan Feeder Pig Company, Camden, Ind.

The meeting was one of 13 such information meetings being held during February across the nation.

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