

Local Test Plots Show Grass Fertilization Good Investment

This past year, P. L. Rohrer & Bro., Smoketown, and Max Raichele, Agronomist with Ortho Division, Chevron Chemical Company, put out replicated test plots on grass fertilization at three separate locations — one at Quarryville, the second west of Millersville and the third located near Sporting Hill. The plots proved the return on investment exceptional for such a short time, according to Rohrer.

The grass fertilization test compared no fertilizer checks with 300 lbs of 20-10-10 pelleted fertilizer per acre broadcast on the grass on each of two dates — April 1 and May 30. Harvests were made on May 30 and August 2. Averaging the results from the three locations, they found that the first 300 lbs of 20-10-10 increased the hay production by nearly 1400 lbs. from 2010 lbs up to 3100 lbs per acre. The crude protein production per acre was increased from 140 lbs. to 390 lbs by the fertilizer, almost three times great-

ed the hay production from 1860 lbs. to 3475 lbs. per acre. The crude protein production was increased from 250 lbs. to 564 lbs. per acre by the fertilizer. An added bonus was that the weed content of the forage was reduced considerably by the addition of fertilizer.

With a 12c per pound value placed on the crude protein in order to calculate returns, \$2 was returned within two months for each \$1 invested in fertilizer for the first application. Returns were \$2.50 for each \$1 invested for the second treatment.

Rohrer pointed out that the census data for Lancaster County reports 65,000 acres of grassland in the county. Fertilizing these pastures would increase agricultural income considerably for the county. He suggests that right now, when the grass is resuming growth, is an excellent time to fertilize. This should be followed with a second treatment in early June.

The White House was lighted by candles for the first 50 years of its lifetime.

The second application of 300 lbs of 20-10-10 per acre increases

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JAY C. ZIMMERMAN, was the first place winner in the annual 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Roundup held Monday night, at the Farm and Home Center. His exhibit showed the value of contouring rolling land.

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