

Experiments Show Lime Aids Best Crop Yields

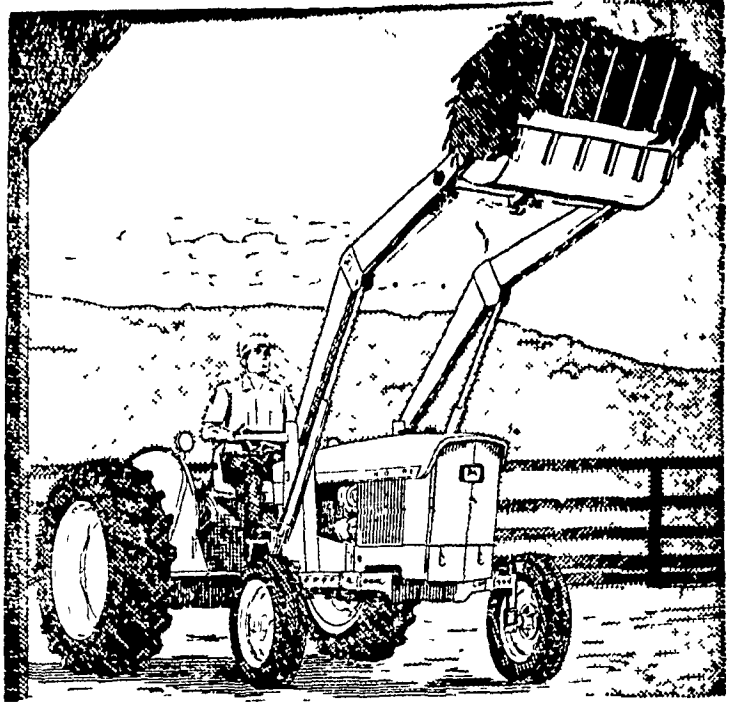
Growing crops without applying lime requires more phosphorus than is needed when lime is used, and produces inferior yields according to an agronomist with the Agricultural Experiment Station at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Albert S. Hunter, professor of soil technology at Penn State, says seven years of field experiments showed that lime was effective in increasing yields of alfalfa hay and corn regardless of the amount of phosphorus used.

Highest yields were obtained only when lime and phosphorus were used together. Lime with phosphorus produced yields almost as large as, and often larger than, any amount of phosphorus without lime. Nitrogen and potassium were applied uniformly to all treatments. The experiments reaffirm the well-known fact that several months are required for lime to

become effective after application. Lime, applied in the spring, did not increase yields the first year but produced large yield increases with all crops every year after the first. On acid soils, lime and phosphorus complement each other. Dr. Hunter points out, and — to some extent — can be substituted one for the other in corn production.

Fall is an ideal time to apply lime in another respect, he suggested. The soil is usually dry, so that little or no damage is caused by heavy trucks used to spread lime.

While phosphorus increased yields with or without lime, the increases were smaller on limed than on unlimed plots. According to Dr. Hunter, this indicates that lime made native or residual phosphorus more available than otherwise and thereby decreased plant responses to fertilizer phosphorus.



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● Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

- 12 noon—Annual Meeting of District #18 of American Dairy Assn and Dairy Council of New York. Heisey's Diner, Route 72, Lebanon
- 7:00 p.m.—Grange #66 Dinner. Program meeting at the Grange Hall
- 7:00 p.m.—Inter State Annual meeting, Plain and Fancy. Bud-in-Hand

Tuesday, Oct. 28
28-29—Limeat Program meeting for Ag-Finance Leaders. Farm and Home Center

Wednesday, Oct. 29
10:00 a.m.—New Holland Sales Stables Dairy Show and Sale

Thursday, Oct. 30
6:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Poultry Banquet, Hostette's Dining Hall Mt Joy

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