

Lack Of Energy Triggers Livestock Health Problems

Numerous nutritional health problems affecting livestock are caused by the lack of ample amounts energy intake, Lester A. Burdette, Extension animal scientist at The Pennsylvania State University, reported here during the annual Lime and Fertilizer Conference.

"Low levels of energy often triggers a borderline mineral or vitamin deficiency into an acute problem commonly known as 'hollow belly,'" Burdette said.

Conditions which can and do often cause livestock deaths include low levels of magnesium and vitamin E and high levels of nitrates, he pointed out.

"The most common and usually unrecognized animal health

problems relate to fertility," the animal scientist said. High calcium and low phosphorus, copper, cobalt, and energy levels can contribute to conditions of infertility.

Burdette emphasized that livestock producers must hold maintenance costs at a minimum but at the same time they cannot overlook the need for balanced feed rations.

Loan Fund Established For Winter Ag Program

Students, graduates, and others concerned with Winter Courses in Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University have established a loan fund to help those enrolled in the program.

The Winter Courses, a technical, nondegree program to provide training in agriculture and related occupations, consist of two eight-week periods a year for two years, beginning in October and continuing through March. There are four options: farm equipment service and sales, or-

namental nursery, pest control technicians, and turfgrass management. Nearly 200 are currently enrolled.

The fund will assist students who have completed at least two terms of the program and are in need of financial aid. The student must be in good academic standing to qualify.

Loans will be made through the Office of Student Aid at the University on the recommendation of the director of Agricultural Short Courses. Applications are now being accepted for October of 1970.

With the initial fund of \$1,700 made available by the Winter Course Club, additional funds are being sought from other individuals and organizations, explains Dr. Fred C. Snyder, director of short course in agriculture.

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Heavy Applications Of Magnesium Needed

Heavy applications of magnesium are required in order to appreciably increase the magnesium content of plants, an Extension agronomist at The Pennsylvania State University pointed out during the recent Lime and Fertilizer Conference.

Dr. Milford R. Heddleson, who reported the findings of liming and magnesium field experiments, conducted by Penn State specialists, emphasized that when dolomitic stone is applied on the surface of permanent pastures, a long period of time is required for plant uptake even though heavy rates are applied.

"Supplemental feeding, dusting or spraying should be carried out if soils and plants are known to be low in magnesium," Heddleson said.

Surface applications of magnesium oxide appear to be more effective in increasing magnesium content of plants, he added. Dolomitic stone applied at normal liming rates works very well in building up plant magnesium levels when thoroughly mixed with the soil.

All farmers are urged to give some attention to the US Census forms received in the mail. The 1969 Agricultural Census is to be taken by mail and the forms are to be completed and returned to the Bureau of Census by February 15. Since agriculture statistics are important for many reasons, I'd like to urge that all farmers complete these forms as soon as possible and return them as requested. Some folks may be reluctant to report the information that is requested, but accurate facts are needed and could be of help to agriculture.



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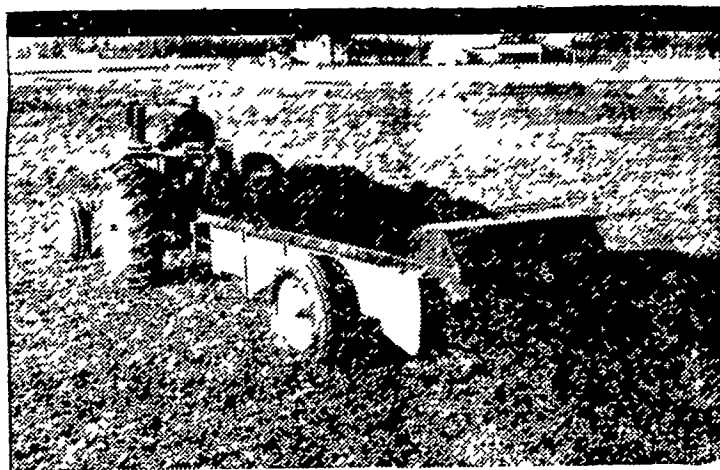
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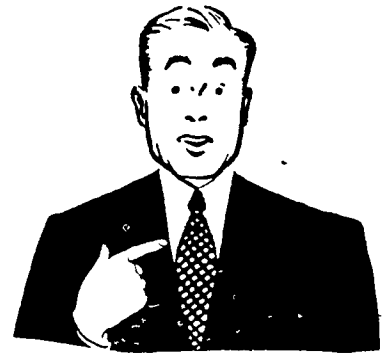
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