

Trace Minerals May Be Short

Through plant breeding and fertilization, crop yields have increased enormously for several decades.

The more or less standard NPK fertilizers, heavily applied, stimulate rapid growth and production of crops that pump up through the root system not merely the three commercial plant food elements, but also other mineral elements including trace minerals with which we are concerned, according to Dr. Gustav Bohstedt, of the University of Wisconsin.

If these minerals are not replaced in time, the soil will become more and more depleted.

The New Hampshire test some years ago is a case in point. Through successive NPK fertilization pastures finally were found to have only about half of the cobalt necessary to satisfy the requirement of dairy cattle.

Should cobalt then be added to a fertilizer application as a New Zealand friend suggested at one time? Not unless cobalt were much cheaper than it is in our country, Dr. Bohstedt said. Added to the feed of cattle one can get by with about 1/15 of the cost necessary to properly fortify the pasture grass.

Again and again in the litera-

ture comments are made that the level of copper, manganese and zinc have during the years declined in corn and other

Dog Officers Check Homes

The ding-dong from your doorbell may not be a cosmetic representative calling. It could be your dog law enforcement officer.

If it is, he's calling to see if you've purchased a 1970 license for your pooch.

T. Luke Toomey, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, said he has instructed dog law officers to begin a statewide house-to-house canvass.

Toomey said the dog law officers will be in uniform and will carry credentials. He said they will query tenants on whether their dogs have been licensed.

"We usually know if a person owns a dog," Toomey said. "The next door neighbor volunteers this information, especially if a dog has been running loose and annoying neighbors."

January 15 was the deadline for licensing dogs. The state's dog law provides fines ranging

from \$10 to \$300 for owners of unlicensed dogs.

In most of the state licenses cost \$120 for males and \$220 for females.

grain, no doubt for the above indicated reason. In one instance an article stated that copper has declined 70 per cent in corn grown in the midwestern corn belt.

The late Frank B. Morrison in his text and reference book FEEDS AND FEEDING, at the beginning authored by Dean W. A. Henry, gives analyses of the major feed crops for several decades.

Taking the editions of 1913 and 1956, the iron content as reported in appendix tables of the book declined 75 per cent in corn, 62 per cent in barley, 74 per cent in oats and 54 per cent in timothy hay.

Henry and Morrison used many feed analyses from different parts of the country in an effort to obtain as dependable figures as possible so that the mass of data might have some statistical significance.

The 43 year interval does not cover analyses of the same crops grown on the same land at the beginning and end of the period, nor with all conditions the same at the start and the

end. But the differences in analyses are suggestive. They may very well apply to other trace minerals.

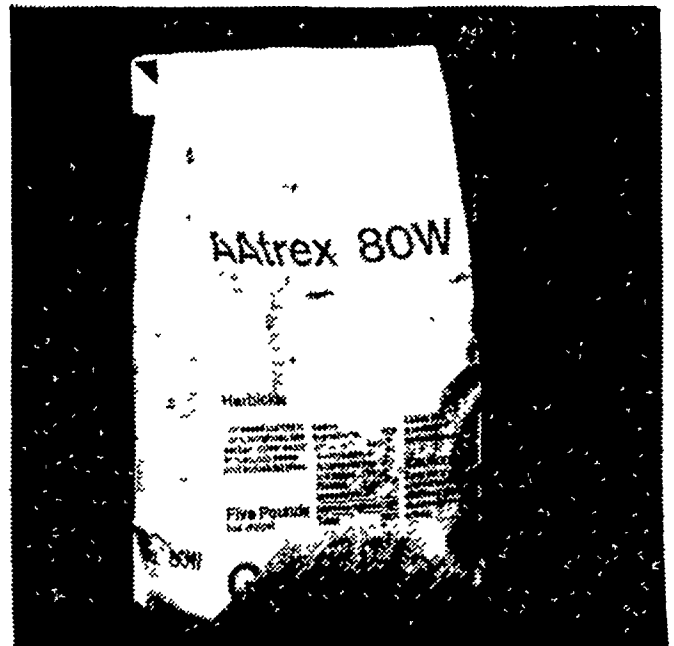
The reports from various quarters lend substance to the recommendations that in view of a general depletion of trace minerals whether in special pre-mixes or by way of trace mineralized salt is low. So, with more and more areas of the country found trace mineral de-

ficient, it is well to invest in this low-cost insurance for the protection of our livestock.

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