

Across the Editor's Desk

We received the following news release recently from the Fertilizer Institute, Washington, D.C. While critics might be inclined to dismiss it as being from a biased source, other reports we have been getting indicate that blaming farmers for high nitrate content in streams and rivers may be premature. The primary factor in high nitrate water may be urban areas, particularly including the partially treated sewage from cities

is a period when crop fertilization increased 35 to 100 fold. The area includes nearly 150,000 acres composed of the Rincon, Mesilla and El Paso Valleys of New Mexico and Texas. The report, issued by the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, says the three-decade study was conducted jointly with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and International Boundary and Water Commission

Public Health officials say that up to 45 ppm nitrate is safe for human use

Greatly-increased fertilizer use may have contributed to the small nitrate level rise at that point, say the researchers. However, they account for most of the rise by the markedly decreased amount of irrigation drainage returned to the river. However, they added, the drainage at that point includes El Paso treated sewage, which may contribute to the slight nitrate level increase

At one monitoring point in the Rincon Valley, the nitrate level of the Rio Grande had always registered higher than the other points, noted researchers. However, the nitrate level at this point actually decreased during the 30 years while fertilizer use increased greatly.

The institute states.

A U.S. Government 30-year study of the upper Rio Grande River has shown no rise in overall stream nitrate levels, indicating no significant stream pollution from use of nitrogen fertilizers in the irrigated and heavily cropped valleys. The study cov-

During the period, says the report, the Rio Grande's average annual flow gradually has decreased, while the nitrate level remained stable or even decreased. In only one base, at a point near the El Paso-Hudspeth County line in Texas, did the river's nitrate level rise slightly. U.S.



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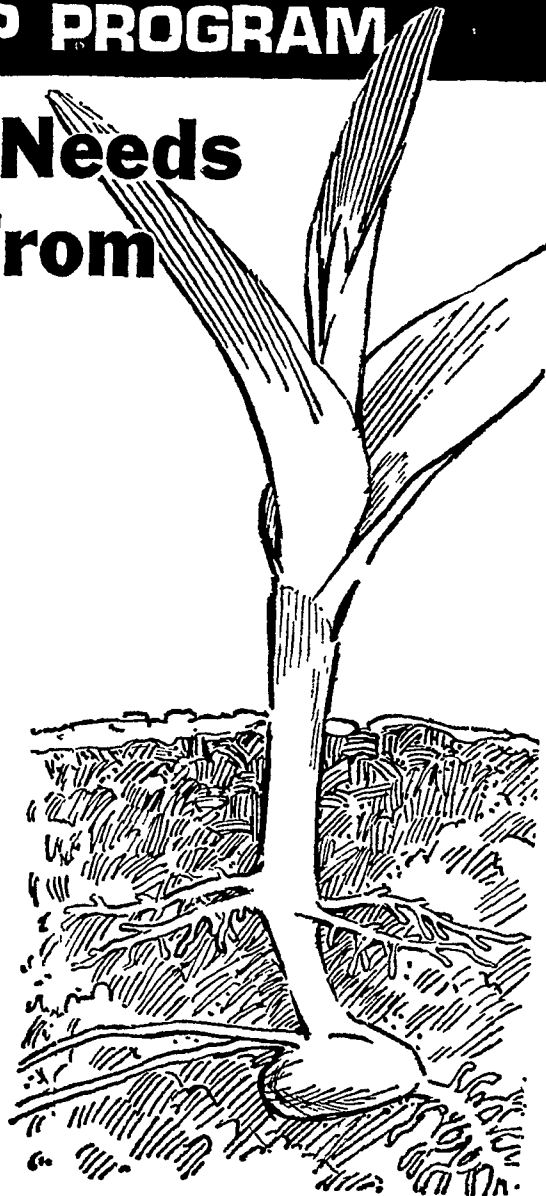


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Penn State Issues Food Science Careers Guide

Seeking to close the gap on the increasing needs for food science, the College of Agriculture at Pennsylvania State University has prepared a guide for persons interested in careers in food science

The guide describes Penn State's four-year program in food science, begun in 1965. Food science is a scientific approach to processing, packaging, and development of foods, according to Dr. Ronald V. Josephson, chairman of the Division of Food Science and Industry at Penn State.

Listed are 28 firms and agencies wanting to hire graduates of this relatively new major at Penn State. The food processing industry, for example, needs graduates in plant management, quality control, research, sales, and technical service. Other opportunities exist with manufacturing of food processing equipment, universities, and at all levels of government.

Published in mimeographed form, the guide is entitled "Opportunities for a Career in Food Science." It was distributed recently to high school guidance counselors, science teachers, county Extension Service Per-

sonnel, and other persons working with high school students.

Typical positions open to graduates in food science are outlined. These include food scientists, food technologists, sales representative, quality assurance supervisor, production management trainee, research chemist in food science, and graduate school.

More than a dozen laboratories in the College of Agriculture are reserved exclusively for instruction research, and graduate study in food science and industry. Dr. Josephson says. The food science major involves the cooperative efforts of four departments — animal science, dairy science, horticulture, and poultry science.

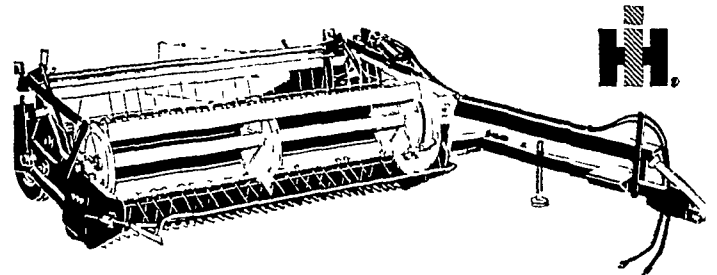
Interested persons are invited to get in touch with Dr. Josephson in 105 Borland Laboratory at University Park

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