

Conservation and Alfalfa Are Among Topics at Soils Day

Continued from Page 18) to full bud stage, with subsequent cuttings every 35 days.

Sound fertility is very essential to maintaining high yield over a period of time. With improper fertility, yields start out lower and decline immediately in comparison to properly fertilized alfalfa.

Some new alfalfa varieties are being developed which have good potential in this area, he said.

Baylor said the control of insects is particularly important to the alfalfa crop during the growth of the second cutting. Any stress on the crop during the second cutting can spell trouble for the alfalfa stand, he said.

Baylor thinks one of the biggest problems for yield and crop persistence is the potato leaf hopper. It moves into the County in June and hits new seedlings at 8 to 12 inches tall and it also attacks the second growth on established stands. The hopper can have serious consequences for both the yield and quality.

Baylor doesn't think the weevil is a serious problem at this time.

Baylor urged the harvesting of the hay crop as wilted hay silage at about 60 per cent moisture. The wilted silage is lighter, easier to handle and cows like it, he said.

Speaking on some of the factors leading to corn yield re-

duction, Joseph H. McGahan, Penn State extension agronomist, said that some of the fields which showed serious blight damage last year really were hurt from improper use of chemicals. Chemical damage slowed down plant growth and made the crop susceptible to the blight late in the season, he explained.

Improper rates of fertilizer can also introduce stalk rots and blights, he said.

To avoid blights this year he warned farmers to plant early. He also urged use of hybrids which show resistance to blight, resistant varieties should be

used particularly along streams or in areas where the blight hit hardest last year.

Besides making the crop more susceptible to blight, late corn planting also increases damage from the northern corn root-worm.

Excessive populations encourage high growth and lodging, delay maturing and increase the plant's susceptibility to blight. Plant populations over 24,000 per acre should be avoided, he emphasized.

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31st PENB Meeting Set

The 31st annual meeting of the Poultry and Egg National Board (PENB) will be held at the Ramada Inn in Chicago March 17 and 18.

The Wednesday, March 17 meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. with an annual business meeting, a report on the cholesterol educational campaign and a panel discussion of the future of the hard cooked shell-less egg.

The afternoon program includes a luncheon discussion of the status of the cholesterol picture since the Framingham report, followed by an open board of directors meeting at 3 p.m. The annual meeting discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m. will emphasize egg promotion in the 1970's.

The Thursday session begins at 9 a.m. and the annual meeting adjourns at noon. The morning program includes a discussion on the consumption of eggs and cheese at morning, noon and night, how the egg industry can solve some of its headaches through promotion, and an explanation of the UEP program.

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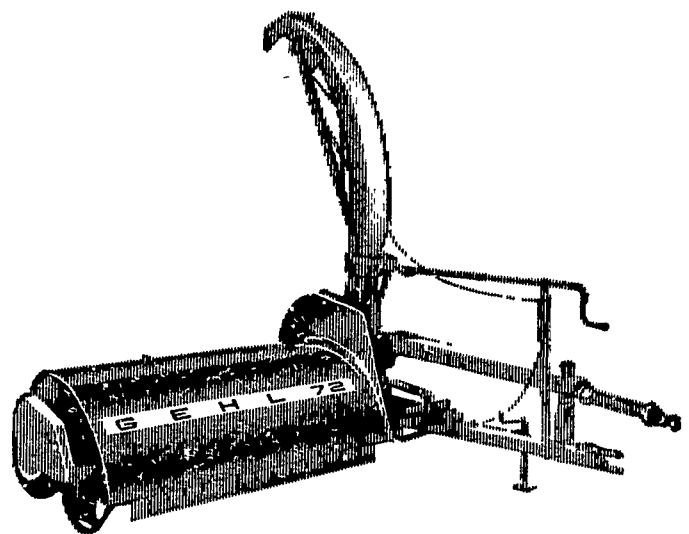


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