## Poultrymen-Vegetable Growers **Urged to Balance Fertilizers**

Vegetable growers who are also poultrymen have a good source of nitrogen fertilizer in dried poultry manure but should

add phosphorus and potash based on soil tests, according to Dr. Ernest L. Bergman, professor of plant nutrition at Pennsylvania

Unless phosphorus and potash are added, the money saved in using poultry manure will be lost in lower than normal crop yields, Dr Bergman stated recently at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association at University Park. Bergman said considerable numbers of vegetable producers are also poultrymen or have ready access to poultry manure.

Yields of tomatoes were used as an example, from studies at the horticultural research farm of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. Best yields of tomatoes were obtained by using 1,700 pounds of dried poultry manure per acre, supplemented with 500 pounds of phosphorus per acre and 300 pounds of magnesium per acre. These applications produced over 21 tons of tomatoes per acre-one ton greater than yields from strictly commercial fertilizer without magnesium.

The vegetable poultryman gains nothing by putting on very high rates of dried poultry manure, hoping to offset the lack of phosphorus and magnesium, Dr. Bergman pointed out. He said such a practice may upset the nutrient balance by adding too much nitrogen. The usual recommendation for field tomatoes is 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Phosphorus, potash, magnesium applications, as well as liming, are based on soil tests.

State University

Dr. Bergman says it is important to know the moisture level of the dried poultry manure Nutrient content of the manure changes with adjustments in moisture level. In the trials by Dr Bergman and associates, the 15 per cent moisture content supplied a product equal to 6-4-3 fertilizer

Recent developments in poultry manure drying by Dr Glenn O Bressler at Penn State have made it possible to reduce the bulk weight of poultry manure while improving the ease

of handling the product The dried manure has also been used successfully in hydroseeding highway right-of wave as well. coal mine spoil and refuse banks

In the Penn State experiment with tomatoes, poultry manure dried to 15 per cent moisture content was plowed under on October 15 Commercial fertilizer, as recommended from soil tests, was applied before planting time in the spring The plots were harvested in September and were re-sampled for analysis in November

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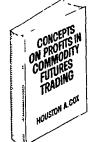
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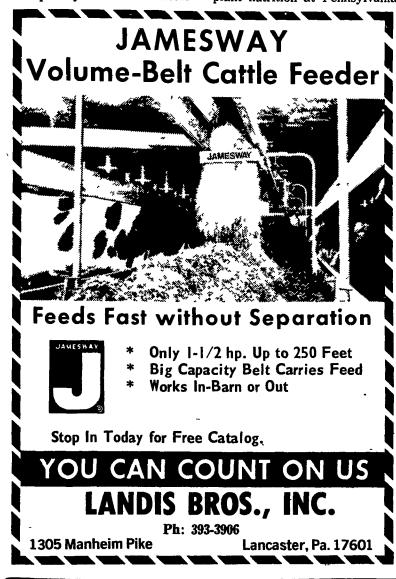
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