

# Fertilize Grass Pastures For Increased Profits

By: Max Maichele, Field Agronomist, ORTHO Division Chevron Chemical Company Willis Rohrer, President, P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc., Smoketown, Pennsylvania

Grass pastures offer a tremendous opportunity for farmers to receive quick and large returns on fertilizer investment. These returns can be obtained within a matter of weeks instead of months as with other crops that farmers

regularly fertilize. Let's consider some work we completed this season on orchardgrass in the area.

We applied fertilizer on March 28 and May 15, in both single and split applications. All yields were calculated on a hay basis at 12 percent moisture. Crude protein determinations were made at an independent laboratory.

Average yield of forage and protein are summarized in the following table for 5 different

fertilizer treatment.

The best economic response came from 800 lbs. of 20-10-10 applied March 28. The two 400 lb. applications (treatment 5) was much less profitable than a single application of 800 lbs. applied March 28. Delaying the single 400 lb. application to May 15 resulted in slightly less total hay production and considerably less protein production than when applied March 28.

We add one note of caution

concerning animals fed only grass. Grass is naturally low in magnesium and some strongly acid soils might be low in available magnesium. Farmers will want to insure against grass tetany or magnesium deficiency. This insurance can be obtained by supplying a mixture of equal parts of dried molasses, magnesium oxide, and trace mineral salt, according to animal nutrition studies.

The date we wrote up this article the Wall Street Journal quoted 44 percent soybean oil meal, Decatur, Illinois for the east \$231.00 per hundred weight. This is 28 5c per pound of protein. Our information clearly shows

farmers can very profitably apply high rates of fertilizer to grass pastures. The results also show highest profit comes from early application. This means there is no time to delay. Do it now. With purchased protein priced as it is farmers more than ever before cannot afford to pass up this chance to increase their profits through pasture fertilization.

## Chapter Farmers Installed By Owen J. Roberts

The twelfth regular meeting of the Owen J Roberts FFA Chapter was called to order March 14 by Howard Stoltzfus, president. There were 38 members present

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved as read. The treasurer reported a balance on hand; the report was accepted as read and filed for audit.

The following members were raised to the Chapter Farmer Degree: Jeffrey Austin, Paul Bean, John Bernat, Dave Bertollet, Nicholas Bilinski, Donald Evans, Roy Fizz, Jay Moore, John Swartzentruber, George Tkacz, Lisa Bremen, Glenn Hall and David Ritschard.

Committee reports were called for. Dave Pepple, chairman of the scholarship committee, suggested the Chapter take out an ad in the school paper to help them meet publishing expenses.

Tom Mowrer, chairman of the recreation committee, reported that the FFA will hold a Fun Night with the Twin Valley FFA in April.

New business was called for. Shane Clark moved to invest \$100 in flowering apple, cherry, maple and dogwood seedlings to plant in the school nursery. Tom Mowrer seconded, motion carried. Clark moved to help Advisor Burtner organize a Junior FFA. Mowrer seconded, motion carried

Donald Shaner  
Chapter Reporter

### Protect Cows

When cold March winds blow watch for open doors, broken windows and large cracks in the dairy barn, reminds Joe S. Taylor, Extension dairy specialist at The Pennsylvania State University Drafts chill the udders of high-producing cows and mastitis can result

Treatments Lbs. 20-10-10-/Ac. (Date Applied)	Total		Inc. over check		Value of increase over check		
	Lbs. Hay/Acre	Lbs. Prot./Ac.	Lbs. Hay/Acre	Lbs. Prot./Ac.	Hay. \$/Ac.	Prot. \$/Ac.	Total. \$/Ac.
1. None	3945	396					
2. 400 lbs. (3/28)	5245	651	1300	255	26.00	63.75	89.75
3. 400 lbs. (5/15)	5145	567	1200	171	24.00	42.75	66.75
4. 800 lbs. (3/28)	6560	937	2615	541	52.30	135.25	187.55
5. 400 lbs. (3/28) 400 lbs. (5/15)	5755	748	1810	352	36.20	88.00	134.20

Calculated at \$40.00/ton; protein at 25¢/lb.

## Nobody knows a farmer's money problems better than a farmer.

That's why we're pleased that successful farmers such as Amos H. Funk (at left) serve as Advisors to our Agriculture Department. Mr. Funk works with our agricultural lending specialists, like Bob Bucher (right), in solving farm money problems.

With experience like this, we can work out the best loan plan for you—including flexible repayment, to meet your needs instead of our calendar.

Isn't this the loan service you deserve?

**Commonwealth National Bank**



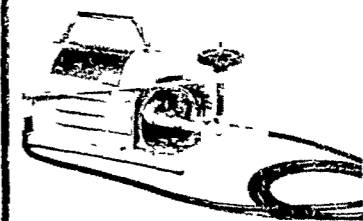
Commonwealth National Agri-Loan Corp.  
Serving the Agricultural Community of South Central Pennsylvania



### Amos H. Funk

Born and educated in Millersville, Mr. Funk majored in Economics at Penn State. He is associated with his son in growing and retailing fruits and vegetables from his 237-acre family farm. He is an active conservationist, and has served on many state committees concerned with farming and conservation. He was Pennsylvania Master Farmer for 1966 and recently was named State Conservationist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water District Directors.

### PORTABLE Pressure Cleaner



High Pressure - 600 to 700 P.S.I. Pressure

### KLEANER DEMONSTRATION

March 12, 1973  
At The Paul Z. Nolt Sale

### ZIMMERMAN'S ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLY

Wood Corner Rd.  
Lititz, Pa.  
Ph. 733-4466