

Soil Testing Among Services Available From Penn State

Four testing programs are available from the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University. These include soil testing, forage analysis, plant evaluation, and diagnosis of plant diseases.

Of these services, the most timely for spring is soil

testing. Such analysis of lime and fertilizer needs is available to farmers, greenhouse owners, golf course superintendents, nurserymen, and home owners—anyone who owns land.

Whether you have 10 acres of corn, 5000 square feet of

lawn, or a 20' by 20 foot garden, soil testing can help you," says W. Wayne Hinish, coordinator of this program in the College of Agriculture.

For a small fee, mailing kits are available for submitting soil samples. The kits may be obtained at county Extension Service offices or from the Merkle Soil and Forage Testing Laboratory at University Park, Pa. 16802.

Soils are tested for pH

(acidity or alkalinity) and for corrective liming requirements. Phosphorus, potassium, and calcium content are also determined. Recommendations for limestone and fertilizer, along with the test results, are returned to the individual.

"By following the recommendations, you will satisfy the needs of the plants you are growing

without harming the environment. In fact, a healthy plant aids in cleaning the environment," Dr. Hinish affirmed.

The four testing programs provide far-reaching benefits to the total resources of the Commonwealth, he added. Agricultural scientists rely on laboratory findings to help spot and diagnose plant problems and other deficiency conditions before they become widespread.

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Hooper has owned and operated C. B. Hooper and Son, a farm machinery and equipment dealer in Intercourse since 1941.

He is president of the Leacock Road Board Authority and vice president of the Pequea Valley School District Authority.

Formerly from New Holland, he is the husband of Irma Brendle Hooper and has four daughters and a son.

He is a member of the Groffdale Mennonite Church.

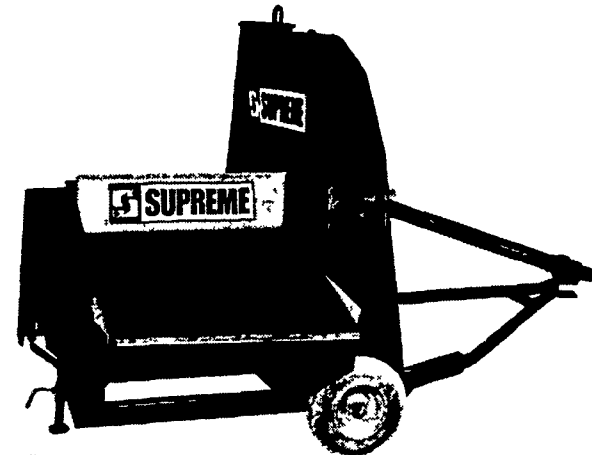
reported by Holstein-Friesian Association of America. All cows are from herd of Roy H. Book, RD1, Ronks, enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement Registry (DHIR) official testing program.

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Roaring Maples TT Ivanhoe, 11-8, 17,910 pounds milk, 705 pounds fat 3.9 percent test in 281 days milked.

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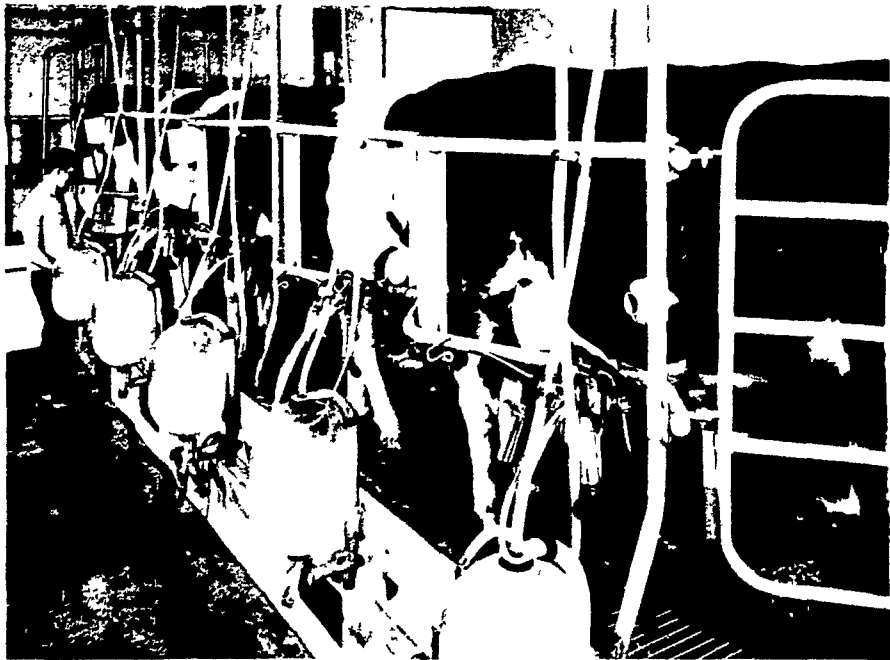
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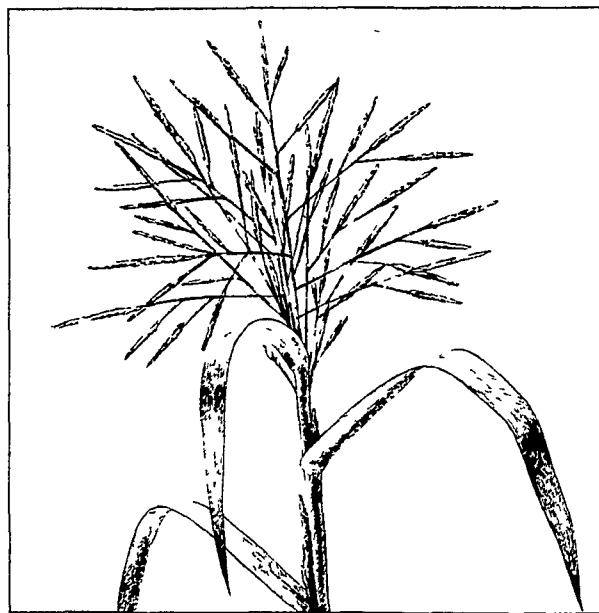
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