

Adequate Fertilizer

(Continued From Page 1)

Importing of both the natural resources needed for production and fertilizer may also be a problem White added.

He reported that 3/4 of all the potash used in the fertilizer industry is imported from Canada as the production of the material is down in the United States.

White continued by explaining that although the United States exports almost 6.9 million tons of fertilizer, last year the country imported 10.4 million tons giving us an excess amount of 3.5 million tons for use.

White feels that with increased imports and more production slated for this coming year, there should be

a 4-6 percent increase in fertilizer of agriculture use. However, with the greater demand from countries all over the world, the price of fertilizer will no doubt increase.

K. S. Tomlinson, who took the floor following White's remarks told the already dismayed crowd much of the same bleak news from the production's standpoint.

"Because of better market planning this year, he stated, 'the market will no longer be a grab bag with everyone trying to get the biggest hunk.'"

"With everyone acting better there will be an adequate supply but the prices will stay high."

Tomlinson explained that although the northeast had

never been dealt a fair hand in the fertilizer allocations, the situation should be reversed this year with Pennsylvania receiving an adequate amount.

However, Tomlinson quickly mentioned that the Midwest would no doubt be willing to pay much more for fertilizer this year which will drive the price even higher.

"Again this year, we will see inequities in pricing," Tomlinson stated.

"We can produce some of the material here in the United States for much the same price as it has been however, in the foreign countries the prices are going up and the producers are asking for more money."

"I'm not saying these inequities are fair or right but they are a fact of life and we must be prepared to see them and accept them on the markets."

What will the fertilizer outlook be for 1975 then? No one really wants to say

definitely, but from the sources we heard, it seems that the outlook now seems to be one of adequate or slightly below adequate supplies with higher prices.

And while the obtaining of fertilizer for spring planting will be a problem to farmers in Pennsylvania, it is a problem that will also be of world-wide concern.

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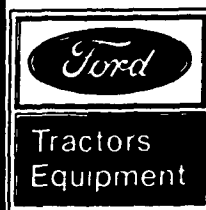
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be: Charles Walters, owner and editor of "Acres USA", a monthly organic farming publication; Glenn Miller, retired Lebanon County agent; David Bennetch, an inventor; Don Schriber, a partner in a soil consulting firm, and Clyde Zehner, a Luzerne County farmer.

More information on the conference can be had by writing to POFCO, Box 86, Morgantown, Pa. 19543, or phone 215-286-5268.

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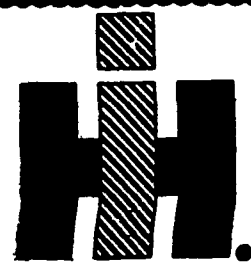
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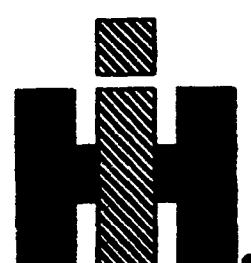
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