

# The soil trembled in Illinois

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farmers in its sales territory a chance to see the Ag Progress Show by taking advantage of a group travel plan. The company took care of all travel arrangements plus accommodations. Approximately 100 farmers from this area went on the trip.

The show was two-in-one to say the least. Held on the 1,100-acre James Willrett farm, the exhibition area or "fairgrounds" took up an estimated 60 acres, while the entire farm (not including

the several hundred acres used for parking automobiles, trucks, buses, campers and airplanes) was used to demonstrate equipment. By mid-morning on Wednesday, for example, 71 tractors were either working or waiting in line at just one of several fields used for demonstrations.

The show was so big that the U.S. Postal Service set up a temporary office and additional power lines were set up to provide electricity for the lights and motors that are a part of every fair.

As to what all was

available to see — it was, by no stretch of the imagination, too much for one day, or even three. It was mind-boggling, and nearly everyone on the Penn-Jersey tour made comments expressing such feelings. A professional photographer, on assignment for USDA, said it was impossible to deliver the scope of the event by way of pictures — it was simply too big. It was something a person had to experience himself.

Among the equipment which received the most attention from visitors was a

plow with fourteen 18-inch bottoms pulled by a 600-horsepower tractor, which was powered by twin Detroit diesel engines — one over each axle.

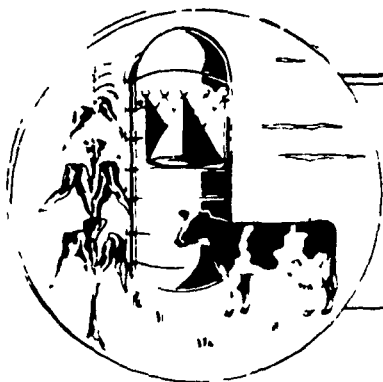
Every major combine manufacturer had one or several of its models in operation, with some of them taking up to eight rows of corn at a time. I counted nine in one area of the farm, and that's not to say there weren't more. Grain was hauled away in 13 trucks, but trying to keep up with the picker-shellers was hopeless.

Once the fields were picked clean, the remaining stalks were chopped, raked and baled, and then the tractors with tillage equipment behind them rumbled on to the scene as though they were declaring war on the Illinois soil. With a dozen or more planes in the air, approaching the landing strip, a person could get the impression that an invasion was taking place. The sky looked like a scene from a war movie, with squadrons of fighter planes closing in on their target.

Chased by a cold north wind which was expected to send temperatures in the Midwest to the freezing point by last Wednesday night,

probably the same chilly weather which arrived here Thursday night) the combines, tractors, plows, and other equipment cleared off and turned over several hundred acres of the rich, black Illinois soil. And it was done on a "part-time" effort. No one ever worked in both directions because then it would have gone so fast that the show would be over too soon.

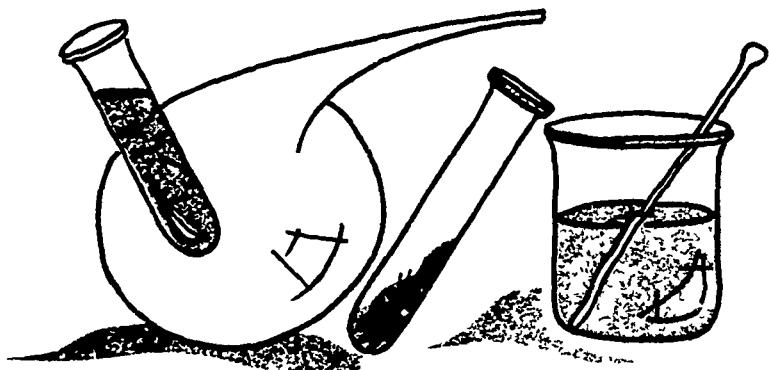
Although Lancaster Farming has a 96-page issue this week — the biggest we can make without going into three sections — time and space do not allow for full coverage of the Ag Progress Show today. We'll have lots more next week.



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## IS TESTING NECESSARY?



The third in a series of six articles - The first two articles ["Why AGRI-KING Builds Rations From The Ground Up" and "What is a Balanced Ration?"] are available on request. Call 717-394-3047.

Yes, in today's farming economic situation it is very important for you the farmer to know what you have grown so you know best how to feed it. Some people say "testing is useless and not worth it", and we would be the first to agree with them unless you use the results of these tests to balance your feeding ration the AGRI-KING way. Some people say "Averages are good enough". Averages are the best of the worst and the worst of the best, and we hardly ever see an average test go through our lab.

I'm sure you're glad that the shoe industry doesn't do what the feed industry has done for years - just make an average size shoe. Some of us would have awful big blisters before the day was through. Or how about the clothing industry - most people would look ridiculous in the average size clothes. But yet for years we've been trying to feed livestock by book value or "by guess and by golly". To be exact you have a one in one thousands chance of being right by using averages.

We've seen haylage samples running as low as 10.28 percent protein to as high as 23.17 percent protein. Calcium varied from .69 to 2.04 percent and phosphorus ranged from .21 to .52 percent.

On hay we've seen samples run from 22.44 percent protein to as low as 6.81 percent protein. Calcium varied from 2.06 to .64 percent and phosphorus from .53 to .22 percent. In corn silage we've seen protein range from 12 percent protein to 4.8 percent protein, Calcium from .96 to .40 percent and phosphorus from .46 to .19 percent. Some experts would say these variances don't make much difference but if you ever figured what it takes to balance a ration using first one figure and then the other, you would realize what a big difference it does make.

These tests are an example of how they vary throughout the country from one neighbor's farm to another. There are many reasons why they vary - some we can help and others we can't. The fertility of the soil, weather conditions, variety of seed, maturity of the plant at harvest, and proper fertilization are some of the things that determine test results.

We must work with what you have in YOUR hay mow and silo in order to balance your ration the AGRI-KING way. What is correct for one farmer is hardly ever right for his neighbor.

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