

Fertilizer

(Continued from Page 1)

are tying up a good portion of the cars. If the traditional rush on fertilizer develops later this month and through April, deliveries may become bottlenecked because of the lack of transportation. But it won't be a matter of supplies not being available. They'll be in good supply, and prices are even 30 to 50 per cent lower than those of a year ago.

Roup noted that 1974 fertilizer use was down for the first time since 1960. He believes that now, with lowered prices and increased supplies, "we have an economic incentive to run the industry on a business-like effort."

The seemingly good news does not have farmers leaping onto their trucks to pick up fertilizer, however. Apparently, for whatever reasons, many farmers are offering substantial resistance to ordering their fertilizer needs. Some are reportedly holding back because they feel the high prices and shortages of previous years were contrived.

Roup said fertilizer production plants are mushrooming all over the world. In nitrogen production, for example, the world presently has 98 firms which produce 65-million or more tons per year. Reports indicate that 120 more plants of this size are now on the drawing board—18 of which are in Russia and 13 in Red China.

The growth of the fertilizer industry, and its pattern, is likely to change our "traditional" supply picture in years to come, Roup claimed. He described the phenomenal expansion of nitrogen-producing firms as "unrealistic," and possibly

could lead to higher prices. He sees America as becoming less important in production and use of nitrogen while undeveloped nations, notably Russia and China, are recording great increases. A tight supply, "but no shortage," is seen by 1980-81 due to this increased use abroad.

"Phosphorus is very adequate," Roup continued. He sees a 30 per cent increase in demand by 1980.

The only cloudy situation as far as supplies are concerned involves potash and the Canadian government, which controls more than three-quarters of the potash used in the United States. Roup and representatives from other companies claim that supplies are adequate now, but this could change at any time if Canada wishes to cut its exports.

Max Maichele, Ortho agronomist, was the second speaker on the program which was held at the Meadow Hills Restaurant near New Danville. He gave several pointers which would be conducive to maximizing returns from fertilizer investments. They are:

Earlier planting dates and shallower planting depth. Besides lowering yields with late plantings, corn planted in June or late May is also much more susceptible to moisture stress. Maichele also recommends that farmers plant above intended populations to account for germination losses, and use a good starter fertilizer to speed growth. He cautions that fertilizers not be placed too close to the seed, lest they be damaged.

Final week for Berks tree sale

LEESPORT — The Conservation District Directors' 1976 Tree Sale is entering its final week. The Directors are urging landowners, civic groups, youth groups and any other interested individuals in the county to take advantage of the opportunity to beautify their property at the special prices being offered through the sale.

Three year old seedlings from the following categories may be selected in packets of six trees at a cost of six for \$1.00 or 100 for \$12.00: Colorado Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine,

Douglas Fir, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and Mugho Dwarf Pine. Purchaser may choose the species and quantities of each, and there is no limit on the number of seedling which may be purchased.

For the first time the Conservation District is offering three year old Deciduous Trees at a cost of \$1.00 per tree. The selection is Chinese Chestnut, White Oak, Tulip Poplar, and Red Maple.

White Birch trees, which are recommended to be planted in clumps of three for landscaping, may be

purchased in lots of three for \$1.00.

In keeping with the Bicentennial year, a special offer is being made. Three year old Hemlocks, Pennsylvania's State Tree, are being sold for 50 cents each.

All orders for trees must be into the Berks County Conservation District Office, Leesport, not later than

March 12th. Interested individuals may write the Berks County Conservation District, "AG" Center, Leesport, Pa. 19333, to obtain an order blank, or they may call the District Office at 215-375-9786.

The theme of this year's sale is "A Seedling Planted in 1976 Will Be a Tree of Tomorrow."

Turkey conference set

The NEPPCO Turkey Conference will be held in the Sheraton Inn on U.S. Bus. Rte. 15, just south of Gettysburg, Pa., on Wed.

Registration Fee, which includes lunch, is \$12. Advance registration is recommended. Meetings begin at 9:15 a.m.

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Leb. conserv. planned

George Wolff, chairman of the Lebanon County Conservation District, announces conservation planning meetings to be held March 9, 1976 at Cedar Crest High School, Vo-Ag Department and March 16, 1976 at Annville Cleona High School Vo-Ag Department. These meetings will show landowners what is involved in conservation planning.

Karl Hellerick, Soil Conservation Service and Clair Gerberich, Lebanon County Conservation District, will assist the landowners in planning their land.

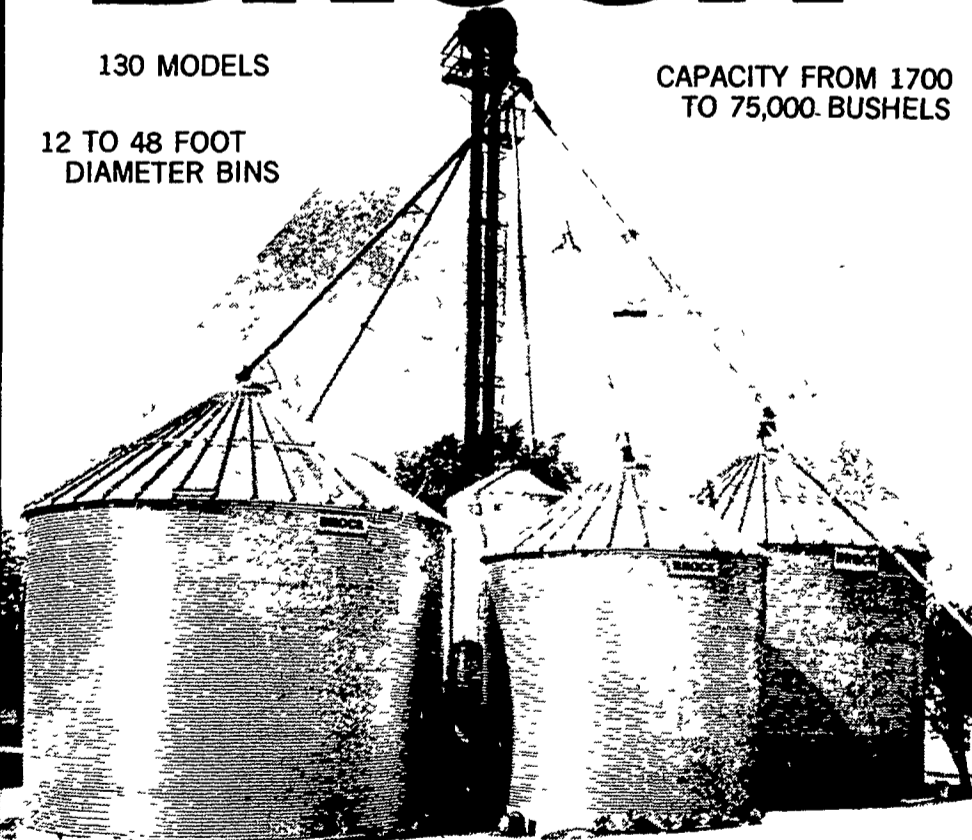
Practices such as crop rotation, strip cropping, contour farming, crop residue management, or cover crops will be discussed there. Other practices include diversions, sod waterways, drainage systems, or critical area stabilization. New cooperators and old cooperators are invited to the meetings. Each cooperator receives a copy of his soil survey and an aerial photo of his land.

BROCK GRAIN BINS

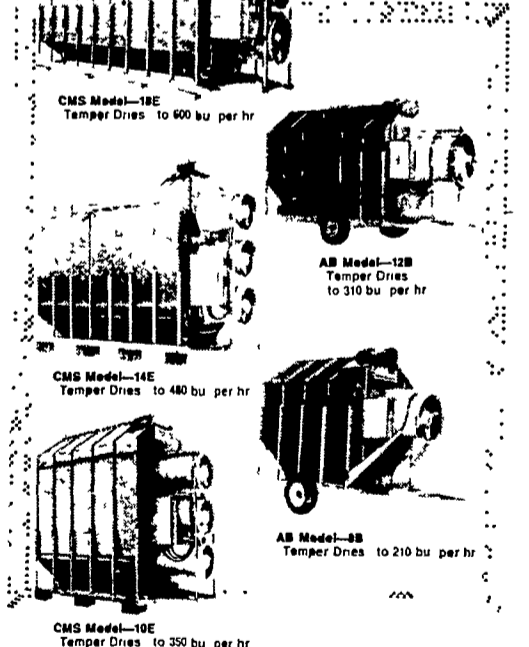
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