

Soil management

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properly incorporated. The purpose of ridging is to increase surface area and warming potential of the soil.

Improve water management by avoiding the excessive water-logging experienced on flat land.

Improve and maintain proper air exchange.

Increase and maintain optimal biological decay and nutrient release.

Reduce erosion.

Minimize the hazards of spring weather.

Assure a properly fitted biologically active seedbed.

The production year begins in the fall with proper tillage, cover crops and soil amendments."

In carrying out their program, Schriefer pointed out that his firm has worked closely with implement dealers and influenced the design of some equipment to maximize their efficiency in the AAA-recommended practices. Aside from speaking favorably of chisel plows and ridging devices, the soil specialist also encourages the use of offset discs. Mast has found the "Roterra" and a Glenco soil saver useful in his operation. He likes the ridging effect of the latter machine and claims the "Roterra" is good for leveling ridges and firming the soil without actually packing it. He leaves ridges on his soil over the winter months and incorporates rye as a cover crop. In the Spring he goes in as early as possible — when the crop is four to six inches tall — to work the rye into the soil with the Glenco device. The fields are left in that condition until corn planting time when he moves in with the "Roterra." Corn is planted right after that. This year, in fact, he plans to pull his corn planter right behind the "Roterra," and get it all done in one trip.

Fertilizer applications at

the Mast farm are "just what Advanced Ag recommends," the Chester County farmer explained. "One of the most important things available is the 'in row support solution' which is put on at planting time directly to the seed," he added. It provides all early nutrients to a young plant just as colostrum does to a young calf, AAA advocates claim.

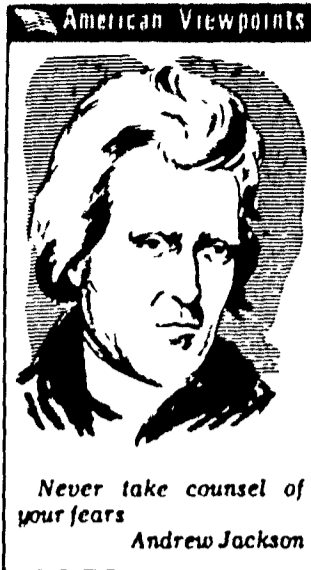
Mast is convinced the new tillage program is paying off for him and praises the program. "The biggest mistake farmers have made is applying N, P, and K without concern for bacteria in the soil nor the necessary trace minerals," he observed. His view on plowing falls in line with Fenzau and Schriefer's assessment: "it deactivates the decay system. Corn yield checks taken at his farm last year by the Twin Valley FFA chapter indicated yields up to 193 bushels of shelled corn per acre at 15 per cent moisture," he said.

Hort club

The York County 4-H Horticulture Club met recently at the 4-H Center near Bair for the monthly meeting.

Bonnie Wire, President presided, the American and 4-H pledges were led by Steve Trostle respectfully. Megan Shaub presented a slide program of her trip to the Junior Horticulture Convention.

Members will travel to Penn State University for the Pennsylvania Junior Horticulture Convention, the club will also take a trip to Longwood Gardens in June. Meetings are held the first Friday in the month at the 4-H Center all 4-H members in the county having a flower or vegetable project are urged to attend.



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