Fertilizer adequate,

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continent could be a real problem. The Canadian government has, for example, tightened its restrictions on phosphorus exports. Most of the phosphorus used in the United States comes from our northern neighbor. While price increases in that area are sure to come, they aren't likely to trickle down to the farmer until late Spring or next Fall, Burton said.

Due to the extremely hard Winter, the transport of fertilizer from one area to another has been anything but on schedule. Barges loaded with grain were frozen into immobility on many of the nation's rivers and lakes. There's also a shortage of railroad cars. Transportation is the major concern being expressed right now by fertilizer manufacturers and handlers.

All things considered, however, Spring planting is expected to go smoothly. The big factor is the weather. Should any one region have a delay in its planting season, thereby throwing it into competition with other regions, the fertilizer may not be able to move into various directions fast enough. But if manufacturers and distributors can start their normal pattern in the South and gradually move northward, the supplies and movement should hold steady.

A check with other manufacturers reveals nearly identical situations. A spokesman for the Agrico fertilizer outlet in Ephrata says supplies are good, prices are stable to possibly a little lower than last year, and that no problems are foreseen. If a shortage does arise, it would probably be with nitrogen, due to the gas curtailments. "The bins are full and we're waiting for the ground to dry," said the Agrico spokesman.

Adequate supplies are also reported by Chemgro at East Petersburg. Timely shipments are thought to be the only possible hitch. Prices are a trifle higher than a year ago.

Agway says its prices are similar to last year's and supplies are sufficient enough to dispel any concern over running out. The same verdict came from the Farmers Fertilizer Works in Elizabethtown.

The Reading Bone Fertilizer Co. reports that their movement of fertilizer has been "excellent" during the last half of February. "It was really more than we expected," the firm's newsletter announced this week. Spokesmen for the firm also indicate that "the more fertilizer we can move preseason, the better chance we have for refilling at reasonable prices and even securing all we need." They're encouraging farmers and handlers to find storage room on their own farms or warehouses. The firm reported an increase of \$5 to \$6 per ton, which they say reflects only half of their increased costs for raw materials. More increases are anticipated this

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 5, 1977–29

month. Those increases are at the wholesale level and will ultimately show up in increased retail prices.

Surveys of planting intentions show that farmers are intending to plant about the same number of acres this year as they did in 1976. Soybean plantings are taking a bit of a jump, however, due to the shortage that's been evident since the last crop was harvested. Fertilizer usage is expected to be up too, but if the season progresses in an ideal pattern, there aren't likely to be any problems.

Veterinary column added

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practice in southern Lancaster County soon after graduation, and after he had achieved a modest start in dairying. He has been involved with farming for all of his life and over the years has built up a herd of 170 registered Holsteins of which 70 are milking. Renting several tracts of land in the Quarryville area, Troop's minimize problems. operation is known as 'Pennstar Farms."

The southern Lancaster County veterinarian became interested in writing a veterinary column for Lancaster Farming because, in his words: "There are so many things I see in my dayto-day practice which the farmer should be made aware of. Besides giving them information on the farm on a one-to-one basis, I believe it can also be done through newspaper articles. The aims of Troops'

writings will be to correct potential problem situations and increase profits for the farmer.

Reader responses may have a bearing on subject matter, but Troop is not setting his column up as a direct question and answer affair. Instead, he will concentrate his comments on seasonal factors to watch for in order to prevent or

Dr. Troop's memberships in professional organizations include Holstein-Friesian Association of America, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and the Veterinary Conestoga Medicine Association. His practice is limited to large animals, particularly dairy cattle.

new veterinary The column will regularly appear on page 16.

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York youths kick off 4H- year

YORK, Pa. - During March 7-12, York County 4-H Clubs are "Kicking - Off" 4-H another year. Throughout March, 4-H'ers will be busy selecting projects to work on during the year.

The backbone of 4-H club work is the project. Each member selects his own projects. "Learn By Doing" is the concept used it 4-H project work. Although the members receive counsel and guidance from volunteer adult leaders and parents, the value of the finished project is up to the individual. Upon the completion of the project, it is exhibited at a county - wide round - up and judged. The County Kick - Off Week will be climaxed on Saturday evening, March 12,, with a Family Fun Night. All members of the family are invited to attend. A covered dish will begin at 7 p.m. After the meal, square dancing, bingo and other activities will be available to participate in. One of the highlights of the evening will be the Selection of posters to represent York County at the State Poster contest. The themes for this year's contest are: 4-H, The Sound of Youth, 4-H, Where The Action is and 4-H Gets Involved. Last year the county contest attracted 65 entries which included the state winning poster by Sue Schneider, R No. 1, Wellsville. For more information about the 4-H program, contact the York County Extension Service at 848-2101. The office is located in the basement of the Court House.



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