



A sizable crowd of farmers from Lancaster County and neighboring areas filled the shop area at C.B. Hooper's last week to listen to presentations on soil management, leasing of farm equipment, and tillage tools. The group also had

the opportunity to inspect new and used farm equipment and was treated to lunch by the I.H. dealership.

New ideas offered at C.B. Hooper Open House

INTERCOURSE — When C. B. Hooper, Inc., International Harvester dealership, here, held an Open House last week, the sponsors offered more than the usual slide program, free lunch, and rows of equipment to look at. Two other major attractions were presentations by experts on soil fertility and management and farm

financial services, particularly the concept of leasing.

Attended by more than 200 interested farmers, the event was held last week at the Hooper farm.

First on the program was Don Beidler, a C.B. Hooper employee, whose photographic work provided a review of agricultural events held during the past 12 months. Included in the presentation were Ag Progress Days, the Pennsylvania Farm Show, several Lancaster County fairs, and Open House at Hooper Equipment in Sudlersville, Md. Slides of farms, farmers, their equipment, and animals rounded out the show.

Bob Blythe and Stewart Harnish, representing Fertility Associates of Whiteford, Md., told the crowd of farmers about the importance of proper soil management and fertilization. Illustrating their

talk with colored slides, the two agronomists showed how chuseling and discing allows for better decomposition of field debris. The incorporation technique also allows for better movement of water and penetration of roots, they pointed out. Citing facts and statistics to

back up their claims, they told farmers how greater efficiency can be gotten from a bag of fertilizer and acre of ground. The key, they noted, is proper working of the ground. That in turn leads to the crop being able to work properly. The end result, they said, is

that "when a crop is working properly, it's converting solar energy to chemical energy—sugars."

The Maryland soil scientists also stressed that decay organisms in the soil require oxygen, moisture, the proper temperature, and a moderate pH in order to

function properly. Incorporation of the soil and crop residues as opposed to plowing, is more conducive to allowing the organisms to work effectively, say Blythe and Harnish.

A comparatively new method of discovering less

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Charles T. Burress



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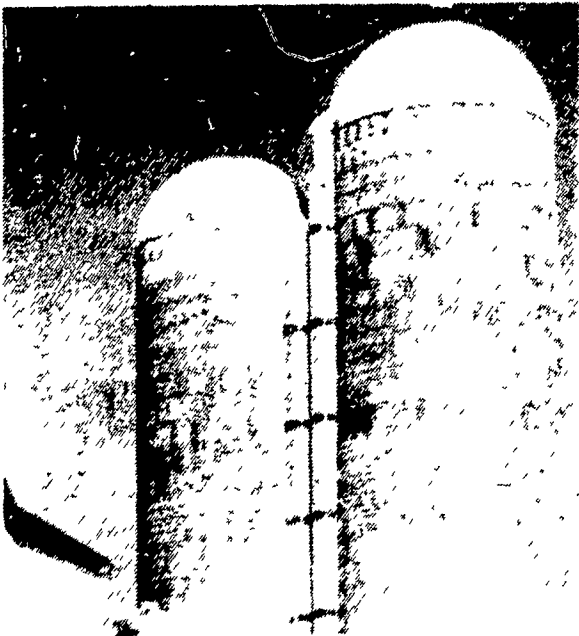


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