

## Starter fertilizers can cut corn stand

NORRISTOWN — For the past few years numerous reduced corn plant population problems have occurred throughout Pennsylvania. Investigations have fairly well confirmed that starter fertilizers were involved in creating some of the problems, reports Montgomery County Agent, Joseph H. Way.

Starter fertilizers on corn are always beneficial when planting low fertility fields. They also result in improved seedling vigor and early plant growth when soil temperatures are in the 50 to 60 degree range. On a high fertility field with warm soil temperature, no starter fertilizer crop growth response would be expected, explains Way.

A nutrient ratio such as 1-3-1 is a good starter fertilizer. It contains a high percentage of phosphate. One hundred to two hundred pounds of starter fertilizer is all that is needed to stimulate the early growth.

Germination and seedling injury is associated with the total amount of nitrogen and potash applied in the starter fertilizer application and with the proximity of its placement relative to the seed.

Keeping the total combined amount of nitrogen plus potash at not more than 45 to 50 pounds per acre and at least one inch away from the seed should avoid injury.

The use of urea and/or diammonium phosphate in the make-up of starter fer-

tilizers has increased the potential seedling injury from the starter fertilizers. It would be advisable to determine if a given starter contained either of the above products before determining the rate of application.

This becomes more important if application rates reach and exceed the 45-pound level of nitrogen plus potash, or if placement is closer than one inch to the seed, he said.

In a Penn State greenhouse experiment this winter, urea and diammonium phosphate placed one inch deeper and one inch to the side of seed caused

severe root injury. In fact, with a urea rate providing 45 pounds of actual nitrogen, all seedling root growth was eliminated on the fertilizer band side.

Additional research is needed to fully establish safe starter fertilizer rates using the urea and/or diammonium phosphate materials. In the meantime, adhering to the 45-pound maximum rate and keeping the placement two inches to the side of the seed when using products containing urea and/or diammonium phosphate will be safe, says Way.

## Berks 4-H Sheep Club to meet

LEESPORT — The Berks County 4-H Sheep and Lamb Club invites all youth ages 8-19 interested in sheep to the first meeting on Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Berks County Agriculture Center.

Election of officers, and discussion of the 1980 club plans will be the topics. Also an explanation of the market lamb and breeding projects will be given.

Future meetings and

topics include: May 19, Castration and Showing; June 16, Sheep Bowl Contest; July 21, Blocking and Grooming; July 27, Picnic; August 13-18, Kutztown Fair; September 8, Roundup Meeting; September 20-22, Oley Fair; and October 1, Market Lamb Roundup.

For more information on the club call Clyde A. B. Myers, at the Berks County Cooperative Extension Service Office, 215/378-1327.

## Grange dairy

(Continued from Page A25)

decided within a week or two.

Pennsylvania Senator Richard Schweiker has sided with farmers in asking that there be no CNI hearing, Grangers were told. Several U.S. congressmen from Pennsylvania also have asked that there be no hearing.

Much discussion centered around the cholesterol question and the need for dairy farmers to tell their side of the story—probably through advertising.

Also raised was the question of whether Grangers would want to advocate only vaccinated animals be eligible for the brucellosis indemnity

program. Pennsylvania now pays to have dairy cattle vaccinated.

Supporters noted such a resolution would force nobody to vaccinate cows, but would make it economically worthwhile to do so.

The Committee also said it would look into possible revision of the Minnesota-Wisconsin milk pricing formula.

The M-W formula, Washington County Grangers told the committee, is out of date, and does not reflect the current economic situation. The Washington County group asked the state committee to look into alternative pricing ideas.—CH

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

In reference to an article about Beechdale Farm on page A15 of 4-19-80 issue, I would like to point out a gross error in your facts.

In reporting about the bull sold by Beechdale, I quote: "This bull calf was the top yearling weight bull in the Maryland bull test out of all the breeds entered." I am enclosing the final test report & have marked Dr. Conrads December bull which clearly shows that this bull was not the "top yearling weight" bull; as a matter of fact, 15 other bulls out of the total 27 bulls had heavier 365 day weights and that includes the non-exotic breeds.

We appreciate publicity on the Md. Bull Test, but we would prefer that the facts be correct.

Lawrason Sayre  
Pres. Md.  
Cattlemen's Assoc.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Conservation District, I wish to thank each and everyone of you who were involved in printing our news during our 6th Annual Tree Seedling Sale from January through March 12, 1980.

Our tree seedling sale was a great success and we sold 53,000 tree seedlings to County residents. Without the help of our local news media, and communications, I am sure that this would not have been possible.

We are already receiving telephone calls from people who want to be put on our mailing list for next year's tree seedling sale.

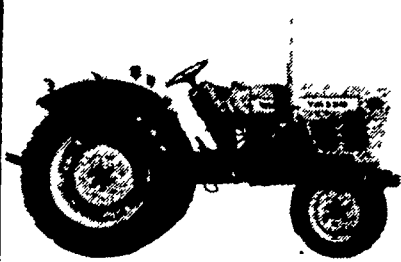
Again, thank you for your support of this annual project.

Thomas L. Johnston  
Administrator  
Lancaster Conservation  
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## Did you pass up Fall fertilization?

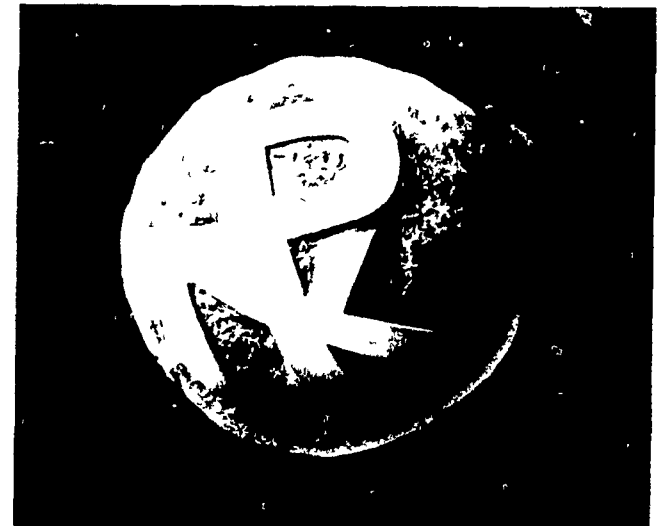
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