

# Improved soil test for lime starts July 31 at PSU

UNIVERSITY PARK — University.

The Penn State Soil Testing Service will switch to a new lime requirement analysis as of July 31. The new method, known as SMP, was described July 1 during a regional meeting of crop scientists at the State

The revamped soil analysis was discussed by Richard H. Fox, Penn State soil scientist, addressing the joint meeting of the Northeastern Branch, American Society of Agronomy, and

the Eastern Division of the Canadian Society of Agronomy

The SMP soil analysis method was adopted when comparison tests found that the Woodruff lime requirement method - the

method for Pennsylvania, 20 agricultural soils were selected from throughout the state as typical of those most frequently analyzed. The average pH level of these soils was 5.7 with a range from 4.7 to 6.4.

The soils were more acid than most well-managed agricultural soils, Fox pointed out, but were in the soil acidity range where the lime recommendation is most critical.

In testing the 20 soils, they were treated with different lime rates, moistened, and stored with alternate wetting and drying cycles for six months. Then the soil pH levels were measured.

Fox said this is the most accurate laboratory method available to predict the amount of lime needed to raise the soil pH to 7.0 in the field.

The Penn State agronomists then compared these precise lime requirement values with estimates from the Woodruff and five other quick test methods. The SMP method was the best of the six.

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## Bumgardner addresses Penn Ag

LANCASTER — Gerald Bumgardner, vice-president for the grain division of Ralston Purina, was keynote speaker at Penn Ag Industries' annual grain meeting Monday night.

To an audience of approximately 100 diners, he challenged the audience to make markets their business.

According to Don Park, executive vice-president of Penn Ag, Bumgardner termed a market "what people think is going to happen." Park said the speech was "not a typical outlook presentation, but one presenting thought processes."

Park said Bumgardner stated new factors with bearings on the markets are edging out the old chartist way of making market predictions. Worldwide money funds and a global interest in commodities investment are making a computer analyst prediction more necessary.

Park said Bumgardner gave an interesting concept on the grain carryover. Rather than comparing with alarm the grain today to that of 1960, Bumgardner gave facts to support the theory

that the population and consumption have increased at approximately the same rate as the grain carryover or possibly a bit more.

Park said the charts tended to show a disparity in prices between what farmers got for their grain and what it cost to produce it.

Park said that while historically the costs have risen in a parallel pattern, the separation now indicates that the farmer is due an adjustment. Costs are, he said, apparently rising at a faster rate than the prices the farmer receives.

As for the government getting out of the grain business and the end to the embargo, Park said Bumgardner stated it is a political year and the answer would depend on who you ask.

Park said the speaker indicated about 58.7 percent of the world's coarse grains are owned by the U.S. and of that, a substantial portion is under government programs. Approximately 70 percent of the U.S. stocks are isolated by government control from the free market. This Bumgardner said means that 43 percent of the world coarse grain

stocks are under U.S. control.

Wheat stocks, Park said, 28.8 percent are in the U.S. with 56 percent of that under loan or reserve. 16 percent of world stock and available supplies of wheat are under U.S. government programs.

Park said the figure the government indicated it would purchase at the start of the embargo has now been reached. He said Bumgardner questioned whether that would be a sign the government would discontinue purchases.

For yields to equal last year's grain harvest, Bumgardner said weather would have to be absolutely perfect in North America, Europe and China during the next few months.

Also during the evening's program, Penn Ag showed a slide presentation on careers in agribusiness which is available to members at no cost for display at meetings.

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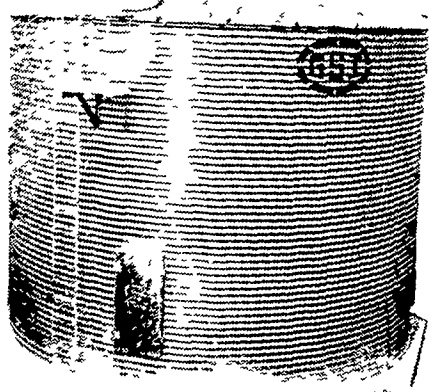
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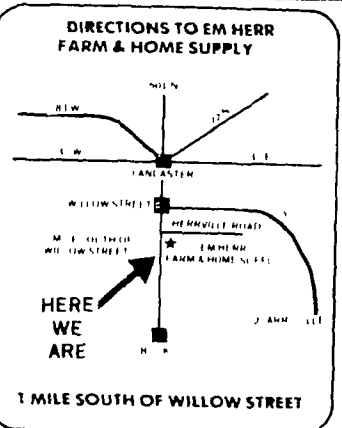


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