

Liming requires a proper soil test

NEWARK, Del. — This has been a frustrating and disappointing year for many Delmarva farmers. High costs for fertilizers, seed, and other production inputs have been followed by severely reduced yields due to drought. It will make planning for next year all the more difficult and critical.

Probably the single most important practice to insure efficient fertilizer use, good weed control and generally satisfactory crop growth is liming, says University of Delaware extension soil specialist Leo Cotnoir. Fall is the ideal time to lime since lime takes several months and adequate rainfall to react. Winter rains will be very helpful in promoting this reaction.

Before ordering lime, though, it's essential to find out whether or not you need it. Soil pH values unfortunately tend to vary with the seasons, especially in very sandy soils. The lowest values usually occur in late summer and early fall. They're critical to get good samples that are representatives of soil conditions over the entire field, stresses the specialist.

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UNIVERSITY PARK — If you are a certified private applicator and have received a card from The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture stating that you must provide evidence of receiving pesticide/pest management update training to be recertified, you will find help from Penn State.

You may study in your home any one of the eight available pesticide courses from Penn State. When you have satisfactorily completed one of the courses, the correspondence course office will furnish you with a letter of evidence that you can return with the card to

Before even starting to take samples, look the field over carefully. Right after harvest you should have a pretty good idea of how well different parts of it produced.

In general, sampling areas shouldn't exceed 100 acres in fields where previous history indicates that crop growth has been fairly good and uniform. If you've observed areas in a field where growth is different — either better or worse than the rest of the field — take a separate sample. Areas that have been treated differently, including differences in manure or fertilizer treatments, plowing and disking, etc., should also be sampled separately. An area that has been plowed just an inch deeper than another area is likely to have a different pH due to the small amount of acid subsoil worked in with the surface soil.

In other words, says Cotnoir, the better you know your fields and use past cropping history as a guide, the better samples will reflect soil conditions. This is especially so on sandy soils where lack of buffer capacity can result in relatively large pH changes from relatively minor dif-

The Department of Agriculture for recertification.

Following are the course titles, each course costs \$5.50: 162. Introductory Professional Pest Control; 163. Pesticide Usage; 164. Pests of Wood Structures; 165. Household Invaders and Resident Pests; 166. Stored-Products Pests; 167. Arthropods that Bite and Sting; 168. Vertebrate Pest Control; 169. Bird Management.

Order by course title and number and mail to PESTICIDE USAGE, Box 5000, University Park, PA 16802. Make check for \$5.50 plus 75 cents handling per course to PENN STATE.

ferences in cultural practices.

Once areas to be sampled have been carefully outlined, you're ready to take samples. No sample should consist of less than 20 cores. A good rule of thumb is a minimum of 20 cores with an added core for every two acres over 25 acres. Thus, a 50-acre field would require 35 cores.

This may sound like a lot of work, and it is. It will mean having a good sampling tube and a lightweight, easily carried, clean bucket. Cores can be taken rapidly while walking over the field. There's no substitute for doing the job on foot.

Depth of sampling is very important. In general, take samples to the depth of plowing. Soil below the plow layer is usually more acid. A small amount of this subsoil mixed with the plow layer will lower pH values. If the soil is too dry to easily push the sampling tube into the ground to plow depth, it may be better to wait for better moisture conditions.

No-till crops present a different problem. The surface one or two inches of a no-till corn field will generally be more more acid due to surface applications of fertilizers and decomposition of the surface mulch. This acid surface

layer will have little influence on the growth of the crop, but will have very serious impact on the effectiveness of herbicides — especially atrazines. On no-till corn fields, take a sample to 6-8 inches for general fertility assessment and a

second sample from the top two inches to detect surface acidity which will influence herbicide behavior. Be sure to label these samples properly before sending them to the laboratory so that proper lime recommendations can be made.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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at 7:00

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At 12 Noon

1 mile West of Gratz, Upper Dauphin County, Pa.; 40 miles North of Harrisburg (watch for auction sign along Rt. 25 midway between Gratz and Cross Road Sales & Market)

33 ACRE LYKENS VALLEY FARM

6-Room Dwelling with Heat & Bath; Bank Barn; (2) Block Sheds; Approximately 30 acres under cultivation, balance wooded with some nice oak timber.

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Holstein Steer Sale	SEPT 15 7:30 p.m.
Va Assoc Hereford and Angus Calf Sale	SEPT 22 7:30 p.m.
Open Yearling Steer Sale	SEPT 29 7:30 p.m.
Va Assoc Yearling Steer Sale	OCT 6 7:30 p.m.
Va Assoc Angus and Crossbred Calf Sale	OCT 13 7:30 p.m.
Va Assoc Yearling Steer Sale	OCT 20 7:30 p.m.
Va Assoc All Breed Calf Sale	OCT 27 7:30 p.m.
Beef Breed Cow and Heifer Sale	OCT 29 7:30 p.m.

(Cows and Heifers for this Sale will be received from noon Tuesday Oct 28 until noon Wed Oct 29th and sold Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.)
(All Virginia Association Sales are consignment sales with Tel-O-Auction Hookup Available)

All livestock must be on the Market Grounds not later than 5:00 p.m. This is extremely important in order to have them graded and listed for the sale at 7:30 p.m. Bring only the type of livestock being sold in the special sale. Contact your Extension Agent on all of the Virginia Association Sales.

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P.O. BOX 558 - TELEPHONE 703/628-5111
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1980

12:30 P.M.

Herd consists of 33 Milking age animals including 19 1st and 2nd Calf Heifers 7 Bred heifers from Elevation Son, 17 heifers from calfhood to breeding age from Oak Hill Ranch Don Jose Son from Lucky Dam with records to 20,359M, 785F DHIA rolling herd average (owner sampler) 6-80 16,624M, 3 7% 620F, Herd never under 15,000 lbs Milk since on Test. Herd average 50 lbs Milk for the last 14 months. Sample records of animals selling Lucy (Ivanhoe Star Granddaughter) up to 118 lbs a day 4 yr old 325 da 23,210M 833F 5 yr old Proj 22861M 755F Princess milked 92 lbs 344 Da 22954M 908F Martha just fresh 91 lbs for Aug Test. Kendy 2 yr old 342 Da 17,512M 693F Cattle have not been pushed for Maximum production 9 Cows fresh in August, 3 due by Sale time, Balance various stages Cattle have good dairy quantity & good udders 60% Calfhood Vacc 30 day TB & Bangs tested, Preg Checked, Catalogs, Sale under Tent

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