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Liming helps control nutrient availability

LITITZ — Plants require at least 16 different elements. Three of these - carbon, hydrogen and oxygen - are supplied to the plant from the air and water. The other 13 are generally supplied to the plant from the soil.

The availability of these soil-supplied nutrients are greatly controlled by soil reaction, the pH of the soil, and the acidity or alkalinity of the soil.

The availability of most of these essential elements to plants is at its highest within the pH range of 6.0 to 7.0. This is true for the major plant nutrients - nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium - and the secondary elements - sulfur, calcium and magnesium.

Of these six elements phosphorus is most affected by soil pH. As the pH drops below 6.0, the very acid range, other elements such as iron and aluminum combine with phosphorus. The availability of phosphorus in these compounds to plants is very low. The more acid the soil the lower the availability.

The availability of phosphorus to plants is also reduced in very alkaline soils, at pH values above 7.5. At this range calcium reacts with phosphorus to reduce its availability. This reduction of phosphorus availability is not as great as in acid soils.

The effect of pH is just the opposite with all of the

micronutrients except molybdenum. Iron, manganese, boron, copper and zinc are more available to plants in acid soils than in limed soils. In fact, liming sandy soils to a pH of 7.0 is not a desirable practice. It can create deficiencies of micronutrients such as manganese, boron, zinc and in

some cases iron. So to be sure that the essential plant elements in your soil are being efficiently taken up by plants, use lime properly. Have your soil tested and apply lime only when needed and only in the amount recommended.

Federal Land Bank to retire excess stock

YORK — Local farmers, who get their long-term financing through the Federal Land Bank Association, will find a pleasant surprise in their mail boxes this month.

The Board of Directors of the Federal Land Bank Association of York has approved the retirement of most capital stock and participation certificates of the Federal Land Bank in excess of six percent of the unmatured principal balance.

This will mean a check to many of the farmer-borrowers who are also the owners of the Farm Credit Cooperatives. The Federal Land Bank is the long-term, rural lending arm of the

cooperative Farm Credit System.

H. Richard Zook, General Manager of the York Association, said this week that his office hopes to have most of the checks in the mail within the next two weeks.

He added, "While individual payments may not seem to be significantly large in amount, the total refund will put more than \$38,000 back into our Association's agricultural sector this year alone."

The Federal Land Bank Association of York serves the counties of York, Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton and Perry, with loans outstanding in excess of 78.5 million dollars.

The following categories are available for your classified advertising:

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For Sale MF 65 with loader Farmall N with power steering & loader Moline super 670 diesel JD 11 transport disc NH 65 69, 270 balers with throwers 215 562-4464

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FARM EQUIPMENT

Case 1816B Unloader used 90 hrs, both attachments, asking \$4700 717 259-9817

For Sale - John Deere 820, three cylinder, good condition, steel or rubber, 315 536-2141 call evenings 8 to 9

For Sale MF 811 skid steer 38 hp diesel, 3 bucket, asking \$7500, Call 717 374 7231, 717 837-2381

1465 Oliver, 3400 hrs new clutch real clean, one owner will trade for Gehl 100 or NH 355 grinder-mixer with scale 703 828 3653

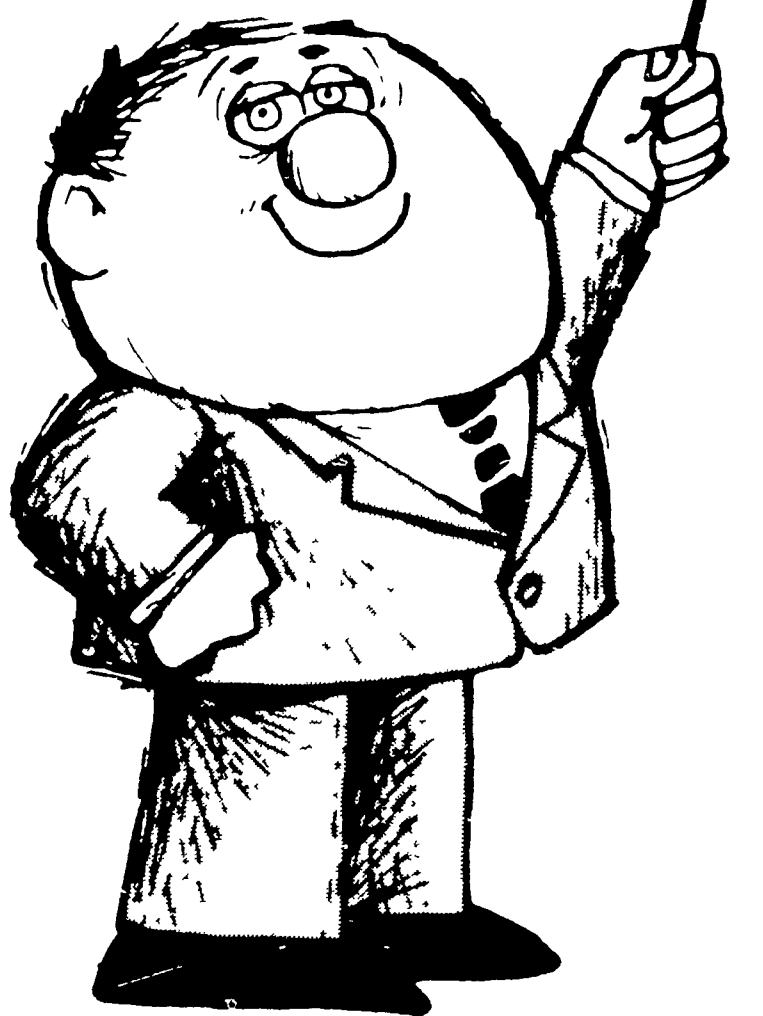
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