

Local dairymen gather production awards

BLUE BALL — Four area dairymen were honored for having high producing herds this past year at the seventeenth annual District 4 Meeting for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative members held Tuesday at Blue Ball Fire Hall.

Receiving Certificates of Merit for having top Dairy Herd Improvement Association averages were Elmer & Kerry Boyd (28 Mixed cows, 14,966 Milk and 541 Fat) and Jerrene & Adam Zimmerman (29 Holstein cows, 19,052 Milk and 670 Fat).

Both herds were at least 15

percent above the state average for milk or butterfat production last year, while at least two-thirds of the cows in these herds are progeny of Atlantic sires.

Awards were presented by C. P. Brantley, Atlantic's Field Supervisor for this area.

District 4 Director, Clyde Martin of East Earl, informed members that 1980 was the most successful business year in Atlantic's history. Service Technicians provided more than 300,000 services, and semen sales increased to direct-herd breeders and through distributors. Patronage dividends will be mailed to all members who

used the Cooperative's services last year.

A narrated slide program presented by management representative, Alan Bair, Lancaster, covered the topics of proper sire selection, good conception and finances of the organization.

Members present voted for District representatives for the coming year. Election results will be announced in the next issue of the Cooperative's monthly newsletter, since more than one meeting is held in most of Atlantic's 16 Districts.



From left, Elmer Boyd and Kerry Boyd, Jerrene Zimmerman and Adam Zimmerman pose with certificates for outstanding dairy production which they received Tuesday.

Farmers learn sulfur's importance

MT. ZION — Nearly 100 farmers from the Lebanon County area met last Thursday evening, here, for the annual customer banquet sponsored by Lebanon Chemical, Stauffer Chemical, and Monsanto.

One of the meeting's main thrusts was to spell out the fact some farmland could be deficient in the element, sulfur.

It was pointed out that 20 years ago only 13 states, not including Pennsylvania were known to have sulfur deficient soils. Now this number has grown to 35 states, with the Keystone State being one of the statistics.

What caused this rise in deficient soils? According to the experts, sulfur deficiency is caused because there is less sulfur being emitted in industrial smoke stacks so less is carried back to the ground by rain and snowfall. Along with that, chemical fertilizers have less sulfur in their make-up. And, higher crop yields drain the soil of more sulfur.

Years ago, when corn yields

averaged 80 bushels per acre, the amount of sulfur needed to grow that crop was 18 pounds. Today, with corn yields around 250 bushels to the acre, it takes 50 pounds of sulfur for the crop.

Where are these sulfur deficient soils? Most likely, the deficiency is found on sandy soils with low organic matter contents, it was explained.

Recognizing whether a soil is sulfur deficient through examining the plants is somewhat difficult because the symptoms are similar to nitrogen deficiency symptoms. Chlorosis and stunted growth are evident in plants where sulfur deficiencies are severe. In less severe soils, crop yields are reduced.

When sulfur is deficient in the soil, the other soil nutrients are tied up and plants cannot use the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium put down in regular fertilizer to the optimum. Also, a shortage of sulfur decreases the protein content of forage crops,

because the element is vital for amino acid synthesis, it was reported.

Plant Industry Supervisor Dave Thompson, of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture advised the group on proper disposal of chemical containers, citing a law passed last November which regulates how empty pesticide containers, hazardous waste, must be handled.

"For a regular trashman to pick them up, they must be triple rinsed, with the rinse water poured into the sprayer. Then the container must be rendered useless by chopping a hole in it or burning it," he stressed.

Proper disposal will be monitored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, he concluded.

Farmers were cautioned on selecting the proper herbicide this spring to avoid unwanted carryover into next fall's small grain or alfalfa seeding. It was pointed out the dry winter being

Crops and soils day to run

LANCASTER — The 20th annual Lancaster County Crops and Soils program will be held this coming Tuesday, February 17.

The session will begin with exhibits and displays, plus donuts and coffee, at 8:30 a.m. Event will be held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

The actual program begins with an update on small grains, soybeans, and tobacco, to be presented at 9:30 by John Yocum,

superintendent of the Penn State Southeast Field Research Lab.

Among the other morning speakers, York County Ag Agent Jim Haldeman will give a talk on weed identification and control in corn and alfalfa; Lynn Hoffman, manager of the Penn State Rock Springs Farm, will talk about a 10-year study on crops rotation; and Penn State Economist Lou Moore will discuss the feed grain outlook.

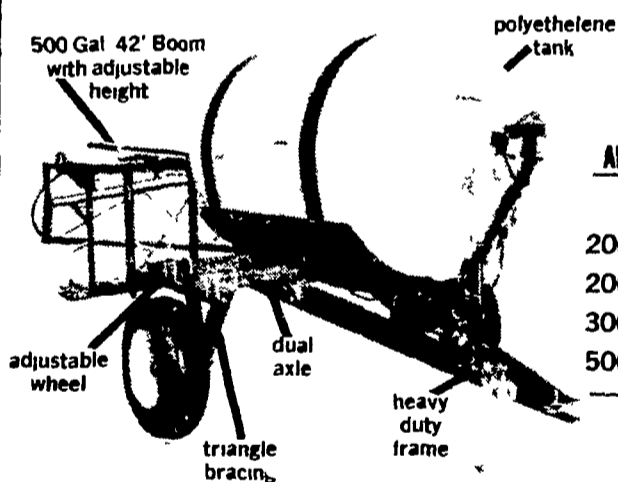
Following lunch, Agronomist Raymond Shipp will explain soil test changes and methods to overcome heavy manure applications, and Roland Freund, area farm management specialist, will talk about the economics involved in corn, alfalfa, and soybean production.

experienced, following a dry summer last year, may not have moved the herbicides applied last spring. As a result, lesser amounts could be called for this planting season, especially in an atrazine program. — SM

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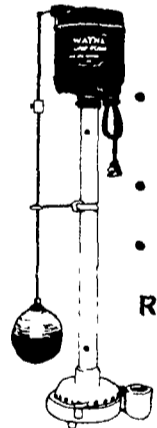
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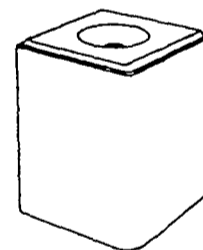
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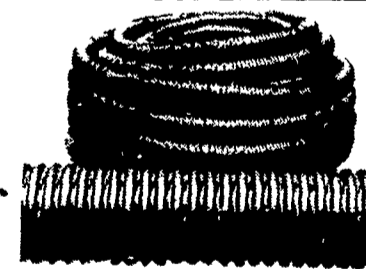
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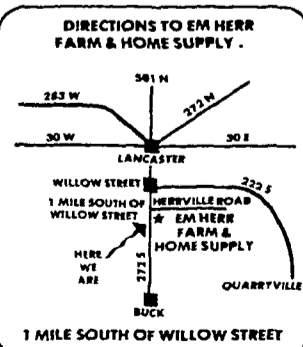
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