

Dairy Pipeline

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The above losses are further increased in the field, and the losses will vary depending on application and incorporation practices. Nitrogen in manure is present in liquid and solid forms. Generally, the ration is about 50:50 - if you've done a good job saving the liquids. The liquid phase is readily available to plants in the year of application. It is also quite vulnerable to volatilization and to leaching if it hadn't yet been taken up by the crop. This volatile phase is quickly lost by agitation and by exposure to sun and air after application. That's why it is so important to incorporate manure quickly and to minimize agitation and spraying.

On the other hand, the solid (organic) form is slowly released. Only about half of it is available in the year of application; the remainder is available in future years.

The liquid phase also contains a major portion of the K. However, unlike N, it is not volatile, but it can leach. Most of the P is in the solid phase, and it is rather stable.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Grange has urged the House Agriculture Committee to recognize the changing nature of farm production when writing the 1985 Farm Bill. Edward Andersen, leader of the nation's oldest farm organization, testified recently that farm programs of the past helped thrust American agriculture into world prominence, but the programs need to be re-examined in light of changes that have occurred in agriculture during the past 50 years.

Andersen noted that previous farm bills have been written on a commodity-by-commodity basis "without proper focus on the overall effect such programs were having on the structure of agriculture." The Grange leader wants a farm bill that does what previous farm bills attempted to do without success which is aid the size farm that is family owner/operated. In order to help the family sized farm, Andersen

said the government must avoid distributing farm program benefits to farms that don't need help. "Because our farm programs reward production volume, the biggest farms get the biggest payments regardless of need," he said.

Andersen reminded the Committee not to confuse farm size with farm efficiency. In the past, farmers were urged to get bigger to capture scales of efficiency, but Andersen pointed out there are limits to efficiency. "We have heard entirely too much talk about the 'inefficient' farmers being forced out of production, when, in fact, efficiency has very little to do with it," he said. The real issue is how farms are financed. Andersen suggested that the Committee consider farm programs that offer income supplements to farmers who need assistance.

Andersen also urged the Committee to begin work, in conjunction with the tax-writing

committees, to overhaul the tax code in order to better serve family agriculture. He cited a recent report to Congress that acknowledged that more funds to the treasury are lost through farm-related tax shelters than what the treasury earns by taxing farm profits.

"Farming has become a total tax loser because of sheltering," Andersen remarked. He noted that for every dollar a farmer pays in

legitimate income tax, some nonfarm investor is using a farm tax shelter to hide more than a dollar of income earned in some other business. "That's not the way it was supposed to turn out," he said. "Just as we have failed to target our farm program benefits to family agriculture, we have failed to target our tax policies to those whom we intended to benefit," Andersen concluded.

Tioga plans crops day

WELLSBORO — The Tioga County Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring a Crops and Soils Day on Tuesday, March 20, at the Youth Center on the Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

This year's program will include seed dealers, fertilizer & lime dealers, chemical companies, machinery dealers and others

interested in setting up a display. They will have a chance to talk to the farmers.

A free lunch will be served to everyone and the cost covered by the rental of the booth space.

Dealers interested in setting up a display should contact the Extension Service as soon as possible at the Courthouse Annex in Wellsboro, or by phoning 717-724-1906, Ext. 266.

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