

Start with soil test to judge fertilizer needs

DeKALB, II. — Fertilizer costs can comprise up to 25 to 30 percent of today's corn crop input costs, totaling as much as \$60 to \$80 per acre. Efficient use and management of this important

input is essential to productive and profitable corn production.

Basic strategy to obtain the most return from each fertilizer dollar includes a good soil testing program, combined with tissue testing and plant analysis. Also, growers should set yield goals and evaluate some of the new fertilizer application technologies.

Sound fertilizer decisions require current reliable soil test information for each field. Know what is available from the soil. Next, set yield goals for your soil types and growing conditions. From this basic information the grower can determine approximately the amount of nutrients which must be applied to reach the yield goal. Soil tests should be performed at least every three years to provide accurate information on nutrient availability and lime requirements. For no-till farmers, recent research indicates that sampling the upper three inches of soil and the three-to-eight inch layer separately provides better information for fertility recom-

mendations and pH considerations.

Next, growers may want to consider some of the more efficient options available for fertilizer application. Splitting nitrogen applications is not a new concept, just one of increasing economic interest. Good efficiency has been shown by applying 50 to 75 percent of the total nitrogen requirements pre-plant or during planting, followed by side dressing the remaining 25 to 50 percent. A saving of up to 30 lbs. of actual N per acre can be realized without sacrificing yield. Also, by side dressing 25 to 50 percent of the nitrogen and staying with the recommended rate, a corresponding yield increase can be expected over the yield goal.

Another fertilizer application technique called "strip banding" is gaining much attention due to its improved efficiency and the rising cost of fertilizer. This concept involves the application of phosphate and potash in concentrated bands 20 to 30 inches apart. Fluid fertilizers lend themselves well to this technique, but new application equipment is opening this market to dry fertilizer as well. The basic principle behind the "strip" concept is that the concentrated band of fertilizer allows for better nutrient availability and is less "tied up" in the soil profile. University and

independent research has shown yield increases as great as 7 to 10 bushels per acre with the strip application compared to broadcast.

Finally the efficient minded corn producer should make certain the crop is optimizing nutrient uptake. This is best determined by tissue testing and plant analysis. Field tissue tests at silking will indicate if adequate levels of essential nutrients are in the plant. If results indicate uptake problems, more detailed plant analysis by a university or commercial lab is advised to help pinpoint the problem.

Ag banquet set in Tioga

WHITNEYVILLE — The Tioga County Ag Banquet will be held on Friday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center in the Tioga County Fairgrounds at Whitneyville, Pa. This banquet is the annual meeting and awards programs for the county agricultural agencies.

Tickets for the Banquet are available from the Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service; Bureau of Forestry; Cooperative Extension Service; Farmers Home Administration; Soil Conservation Service; and the Tioga County Conservation District.

CONSTRUCTION

SPECIALISTS IN:

FARM BUILDINGS - EXCAVATING
MANURE PITS - SEPTIC TANKS



Septic Tanks

- RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- FARM WASTE SYSTEMS
- COMMERCIAL WASTE SYSTEMS

- FREE ESTIMATES -

— SPECIAL FARM PRICES —

DYNAMIC MASONRY CONTRACTORS

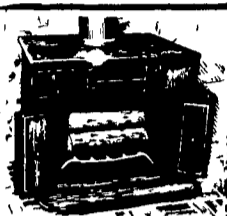
Gordonville, PA

Mike Fisher

Larry Herr

(717) 687-6801

After 6 PM, Call (717) 687-7217



Hydro Heater,
Conestoga &
Baker Stoves
Or Fireplace
Inserts
"Before You Buy...
Give Us A Try"

J&A STOVE SALES

3753 East Newport Road, Gordonville, Pa. 17529
ROUTE 772 1/2 MILE EAST OF INTERCOURSE
717-768-8913

We Specialize In
Aerial Work
Using Our Twin
Bucket Boom
Truck



Extends
To
55 Ft

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

Specializing In
AGRICULTURAL
WIRING

Also Residential Industrial
And Commercial Work
Free Estimates

C. M. HIGH CO.

We Have Poles In
Stock 25 30 35 & 45

320 King St
Myerstown, PA 17067
Phone 717-866-7544

PAUL B. ZIMMERMAN INC.

AUTOMATIC CATCH GATE



FEATURES

- Easily Operated By One Person
- Easily Adjustable For All Sizes of Cattle
- Operates Left or Right
- Double Link on Doors For Extra Strength
- One Side Spring Loaded For Extra Safety

CATCH PEN
AVAILABLE WITH
3 POINT LIFT

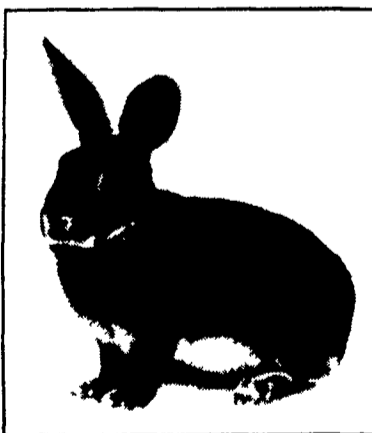
PAUL B. ZIMMERMAN, INC.

Hardware • Farm Supplies
Custom Manufacturing • Crane Service
Box 128 R.D. #4, Lititz, PA 17543
Wood Corner Rd.
1 Mile West of Ephrata
Phone: 717-738-1121

HELP WANTED

Earn \$10, \$15, \$20 thousand a year or more!
Raise REX RABBITS for the multi-million dollar fur industry.

Turn your unused space and spare time into profits.



• Excellent Investment • Exciting Program • Enormous Profits

To learn more without obligation, fill out and mail the coupon below today:

Yes! I am interested in making money by becoming a commercial Fur Rancher!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Married/Single _____

Occupation _____

LF

R
RR
Royal
Rex
Ranches,
Inc.

RR1, Box 54
Equinunk, Pa.
18417
(717) 224-4580

AGRI-INC.

Custom Built Farm Buildings
Designed To Your Needs

Specializing In Dairy Systems:

- Tie Stall & Free Stall Complexes
- Heifer & Veal Barns
- Machinery Sheds
- Republic Steel Buildings For Commercial Use

NEED RENOVATIONS...
OR A NEW BUILDING?

DON'T DELAY — CALL TODAY



FARM & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

RD 4 EPHRATA, PA 17522 LOCATED IN FARMERSVILLE
PHONE 717-354-4271