

# Lancaster soil fertility meeting on Wednesday

**TERRE HILL** — The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program is sponsoring a Soil Fertility Meeting on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Union Grove School. Speaker for the meeting will be Dale Baker, agronomist and soil scientist from Penn State.

Baker will discuss the results of research from over 20 Eastern Lancaster County farms where soil nitrogen levels were studied. This research is providing valuable information for the Chesapeake Bay Study which is looking into nitrate and phosphate pollution from agricultural and other sources.

The key to the research is a new laboratory test that enables soil scientists to measure soil nitrogen

levels. This test is still in the experimental stages but will be a valuable tool for scientists and farmers when perfected. The soil nitrogen test, taken before planting and after harvest, used in connection with crop tissue analysis, yield data, and U.S. Geologic Survey ground and surface water analysis data, can provide real answers to how much nitrate pollution agriculture is really causing.

The test has real management advantages for farmers since they will be able to more accurately calculate the nitrogen level of their fields after they have applied manure. Thus, they can avoid surplus applications if no additional nitrogen is needed and can

still apply more nitrogen as a side-dressing if more is needed. The addition can be done at a time when the crop can make more efficient use of a smaller amount of nitrogen, reducing excessive

applications that could enter ground and surface water and be a source of pollution.

All interested person are invited to attend. Farmers needing Pesticide Applicators License Re-Certification can receive training

credit at this meeting. The Union Grove School is located near Terre Hill on route 625, 2 miles north of Rt. 23. For additional information contact the Adult Farmer office at (215) 445-5041.

## Check Your Fruits and Vegetables

**MEDIA** — One of the points of laboring so hard in your garden all summer is to savor the flavor in the icy days of winter. But if you haven't been careful about storage temperatures you may be in for an unpleasant surprise says C.R. Bryan, Jr., Delaware County Extension agent.

About this time of year some of

your bounty may have begun to spoil and run the rest. Improper storage temperature and humidity are the greatest causes for storage failure. Most root crops should be kept as near 32° F as possible, without freezing, and under rather high humidity.

Potatoes can be kept at slightly higher temperatures and

moderate humidity. Winter squash will keep well in temperatures of about 55° F in a moderately dry area. Dried seeds, light beans, peas, and onions should be stored in a cool and dry location. Apples are probably the easiest fruit to store and will keep well if kept as near 32° F as possible in an area with moderate humidity.

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