E. Lancaster studies

(Continued from Page A1)

utilizing nurrients and what effect high rates are having on them.

Soil testing will also go much deeper this year. With an hydraulic probe on a tractor, samples will be taken to depths up to four feet where possible.

In addition to providing access to test locations, cooperating farmers help by giving researchers their past histories of manuring, fertilizing and cropping operations and keep daily temperature and rainfall data.

In addition to the scattered soil testing locations, specific studies will concentreate on both particular cropping and livestock operations.

Five specific corn plots will be studied closely to examine varying amounts of nitrogen being applied. Also, one dairy and one poultry operation will be closely studied to trace the flow of all nutrients into and out of the farm. Everything going into and out of the farms will be weighed and measured to keep exact tabs of the nutrient flow.

From last year's study of 44 field locations on 22 farms, the studies have already revealed data on the amounts of manure and fertilizers being applied.

Findings of amounts have ranged up to 600 to 700 lbs. of manure nitrogen and 900 lbs. of manure phosphorus being applied on some farms.

"Now, we're already able to tell you when you have too much on at the beginning of the year," Baker explained.

The continuing studies are aimed at pinpointing the amount of additional nutrients that become available during the growing season from the weathering of the manure and how much excess nutrients are remaining in the soil after harvest and what is carried over the following spring. And, of course, what happens to nutrients between these two periods.

Baker explained that area farmers will see more and more people studying operations as projects expand.

'We're working toward a goal of helping farmers to achieve better nutrient and soil fertility management," Baker said.

"We still want maximum crop yields, but with minimum loss of nutrients.

He also had some words of caution of why achieving a better soil nutrient balance is so important.

He cited the possibilities of subsidized programs to help farmers market their manure.

Also, the possibility that extreme livestock and poultry con-centrations will be required to properly handle their own manure

accumulations.

And, the ultimate possibility which current efforts are trying to prevent because it would seriously affect future farming operations that of limiting livestock numbers per acre.

Forestry group to form

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DOVER, Del. -A new organization is being formed in Delaware by state residents concerned about the future of forestland.

Delaware Forestry The Association will hold its first meeting Wednesday, at the Colony Inn in Harrington beginning at 6

Although prospective members should have an interest in forestland in Delaware, they need not be a forestland owner. "We're hoping our membership will be

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made up of a cross section of people," said Robert Tjaden, one of the groups organizers. "We want forestland owners. professional people, and anyone who has a sincere interest or concern for our state's forests."

Any interested person is eligible for membership. For details on the organization or for dinner reservations, contact Robert Tunnell at 945-9300 or Robert Tjaden at 736-4811 or 800-282-8685.

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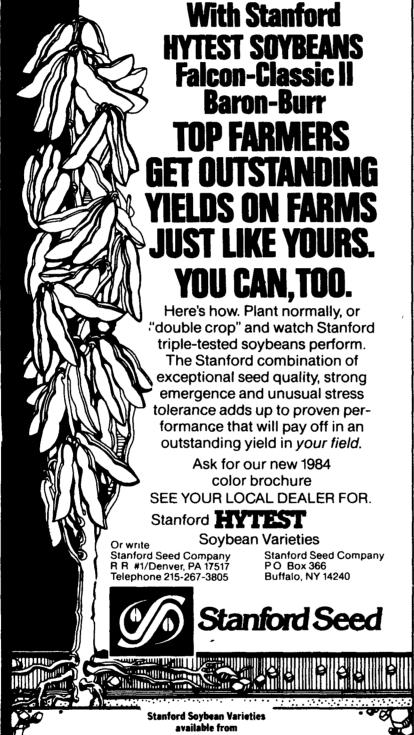
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