

Md. studies ozone crop damage

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Important American agricultural crops such as soybeans could suffer from as little as a 16 percent reduction in the Earth's atmospheric ozone layer, according to a study by the University of

Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES).

As the amount of ozone — a form of oxygen — is depleted in the Earth's atmosphere by such pollutants as freon and other refrigerants, more ultraviolet

radiation from the sun seeps through to the Earth's surface.

That, scientists fear, could have a serious, negative effect on plant and animal life, especially agriculture.

Previous studies showed that as little as a 12 percent reduction in

the Earth's protective ozone layer could damage agricultural crop plants, according to Alan H. Teramura, a botanist at Maryland and one of the study's principal investigators.

A more realistic estimate, however, places the possible reduction in ozone levels from air pollution at 6-9 percent, says Teramura.

What has caught scientists' interest, adds Teramura, is that the lower levels of ozone could pose a somewhat "invisible" danger to some crops.

"A few crops are actually stimulated by increased ultraviolet radiation. But most others show damage in their foliage.

"Some, however," says Teramura, "do not show signs of physical damage but still are harmed by increased ultraviolet radiation."

Soybeans, for example, may lose some of the protein and oil for which they are highly favored by farmers for livestock feed.

In their study, the UMAES botanists and horticulturists found that one soybean cultivar popular in Maryland and other mid-Atlantic states produced less

protein per seed when it was exposed to radiation levels equivalent to a 16 percent ozone reduction.

Confounding scientists, however, are situations in which some plants are more sensitive to ultraviolet radiation in some years than in others, according to Teramura.

"Consequently, there is an urgent need for further, and more carefully designed studies before any meaningful conclusions can be drawn concerning the effects of global ultraviolet radiation on crop productivity," says Teramura.

Children Manage Money Too

MEDIA — "You spend your lunch money on what?" Do you ever wonder where your children learn to manage money? Well, not surprisingly, it's from you. According to Maryetta Dorricott, Extension home economist, parents are a child's main source of knowledge and understanding about money.

Children develop money management skills over a period of years; these skills aren't just built in. Children learn by watching how others spend and save. They learn by spending and saving themselves. Attitudes toward money — what it represents to us and how we value it — are learned, too. When children hear their parents quarreling over money problems or think their parents have an easy-come-easy-go attitude toward it, they could develop troubling

attitudes toward money — attitudes which may last a lifetime.

As a parent, you can help your children learn sound money management, making it a natural part of your child rearing and family relations. Talk openly about financial matters with your spouse and other family members — don't let money become the monster in the closet. Give your children firsthand experience. Let them be part of family money managing decisions. As they become old enough to understand explain savings, income, and expenses and emphasize the role of long-term financial planning.

Money is an everyday part of your children's lives. From an early age they too, have things to buy and reasons to save. An allowance can help your child learn the fundamentals of

managing money. Sit down and discuss money needs and wants with your children. Let them know that their allowance is part of the entire family's financial picture. Agree on a set amount and give it to your child on a regular basis. If circumstances change, allowances should be reviewed and changed if necessary.

Allowances vary. A young child may receive a small amount to spend on little things while a teenager may receive a large amount of money to manage. Some families encourage their teenagers to assume responsibility for clothing, car insurance, and school supplies as well as the more common personal costs. They budget allowances to meet those costs.



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Ag Advice

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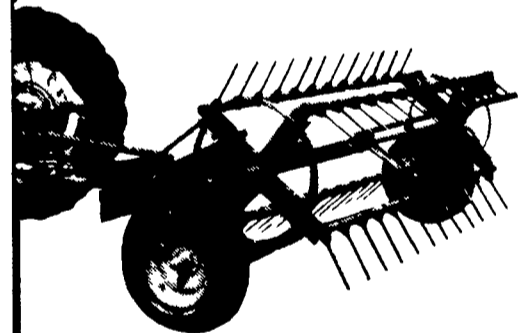
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Weigh the odds

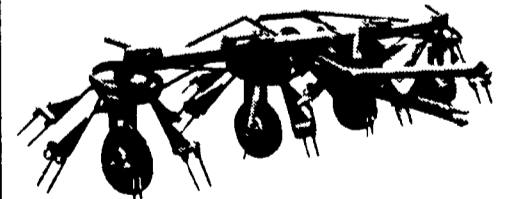
Each person has a different set of values. Decide how much the plus effects are worth to you then how much the minus effects are worth to you. Once you have done that you will be able to answer the question for yourself. Oh, one other thing - if a partnership wouldn't work because of economics or compatibility, then a corporation won't work either.

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