

# Soil, feed lab reports more flexible & more costly

UNIVERSITY PARK — Computers are making Penn State's soil and feed program reports more flexible.

The university's Merkle Soil and Forage Laboratory program reports have been redesigned so fertility and specialty crop information can be updated in response to new data or client needs. Old forms could not be tailored to fit a specific crop.

Because of these improvements and inflationary adjustments, however, report costs have increased. Soil analyses, formerly \$3, will now be \$4. Forage analyses increased from \$18 to \$22. Feed program service reports doubled in price to \$30, and plant tissue analyses increased from \$9 to \$12. The new prices, reflecting the first report price jump since 1980, took effect Oct. 1.

To some, the program reports will not look radically different. A pictorial bar graph will still be printed to indicate the relative soil nutrient levels. One section will specify lime and fertilizer crop needs, and neighboring sections will list further comments on the specific crop tested. Soil analyses will still be listed at the bottom of the report.

But visible differences will be evident as more crop specialties become involved. Report appearances will vary among fruit, vegetable and lawn crops. Further changes will be available with grower-supplied information. (The new reports will not be printed in color.);

With the new reports, dairy farmers can now reap the benefits of cattle food rationing from an unbiased source. Other features, such as daily ration cost per cow and overall ration specifications, will be equally valuable to dairy farmers.

See the new brochure at any county extension office. For other details of the fee structure, contact Merkle Laboratory at Penn State.

## Repair to address ag board

PITTS TOWN, N.J. — Harold "Nate" Repair, Somerset County Agricultural Agent, will be the featured speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, according to Richard Gulick, Rocktown, N.J. chairman. Repair is no stranger to Hunterdon audiences. He is a frequent speaker this side of the Somerset line. He is most entertaining in his humor and interesting in his message, says Gulick.

The affair will be held at the Quakertown Fire House, near Pittstown, N.J. on Saturday, Nov. 17. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., a roast beef dinner at 7 p.m.

Fred Clucas, Oldwick, county board president, will conduct a brief business meeting, with elections, routine reports, and awards for distinguished service to Hunterdon agriculture.

An added feature will be awards made to winners in Hunterdon's new field corn contest.

Tickets may be purchased in the Extension Center, rt. 31, north of Flemington, N.J.

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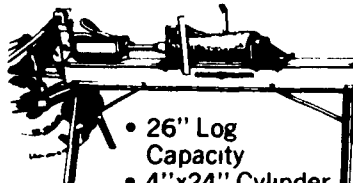
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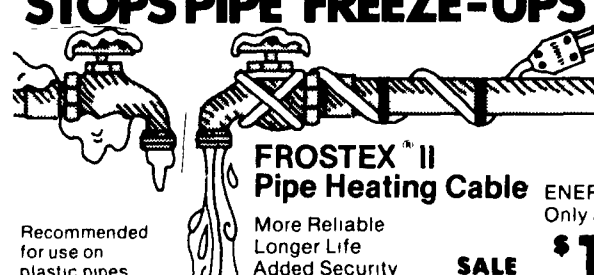
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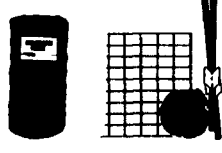
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39	12	11	\$89.95	<b>\$82.95</b>

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