

# Anderson to head extension soil project

UNIVERSITY PARK — Robert J. Anderson is looking forward to the educational task that awaits

## New prof named



Russell A. Rebertus has joined U of D plant science faculty as a specialist in soil development and minerology.

him as the newly appointed senior nutrient management project assistant for The Pennsylvania State University's Cooperative Extension Service.

"It's easy for farmers to overlook the problem of water contamination," he says. "Making these people understand that they can reduce fertilizer and manure inputs without reducing crop yields will be a rewarding challenge."

Anderson will work from an office in Lancaster County. His appointment was announced by W. Wayne Hinsh, acting dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture and director of the university's extension service.

Anderson will be responsible for developing individual field nutrient plans by calculating manure and fertilizer consumption through a computer analysis developed by the university's Agronomy Department. "Our goal is to reduce the amount of excess nutrients from manure and commercial fertilizers being applied to farmland in the Rural Clean Water Project area around the Upper Conestoga River. Excess nutrients being applied to some fields may be better utilized when applied to others," he explains.

Since only half the nitrogen in manure is available the year of application and little research has been done to determine the exact amount of soil nitrogen available, Anderson says, some guessing may be necessary to make recommendations.

Phosphorus fertilization is another area that Anderson will study in the program. He expects to reduce nitrogen applications by 750,000 pounds and phosphorus by 375,000 pounds over a 20,000-acre area by 1988.

The challenge is not new to him. Anderson worked the last 11 years with the Eastern Lancaster County School District as an adult instructor to the Old Order Mennonite and Amish farmers of the

region. He taught soil fertility, vegetable crop production, farm record-keeping, livestock production, agricultural products marketing, and most importantly, nutrient management, to more than 150 farmers there.

"Amish and Mennonite farmers make up most of the population here, but this program will help all farmers in the area," he says. "My experience with the people here and my work in agronomy and soil science with university researchers should serve as a good background."

Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education in 1967 and a master's degree in agricultural and extension education in 1975, both from Penn State. He worked for the Wallenpaupack Area School District as an agriculture teacher and for Sperry New Holland as a factory service representative until he was drafted in 1969.

Anderson is currently an associate director of the Lancaster County Conservation District and the director/secretary of the Conestoga Valley Vegetable Growers Association.

## Windsor named



Jay Windsor has joined the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service as an agricultural agent for Sussex County, specializing in commercial vegetable, forage and farm management programs.

## Little Dutchmen FFA

Members of the Little Dutchman FFA Chapter participated in the County Extemporaneous Speaking Contest on Feb. 25.

The A-C contestants took the contest by storm, capturing first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh places.

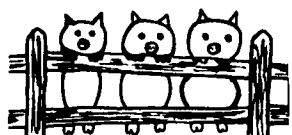
Contestants were: Tim Elliott, first; Dale Balmer, second; Dan Brandt, third; Tobi Winsch, fifth; Duane Copenhaver, sixth; and Scott Brinser, seventh.

The group held its parent-member banquet on March 13.

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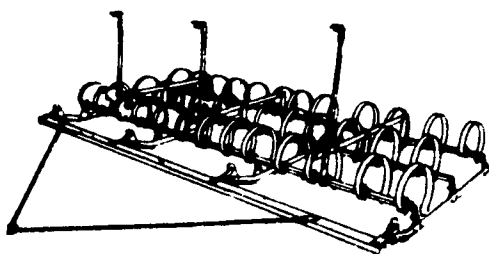
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