

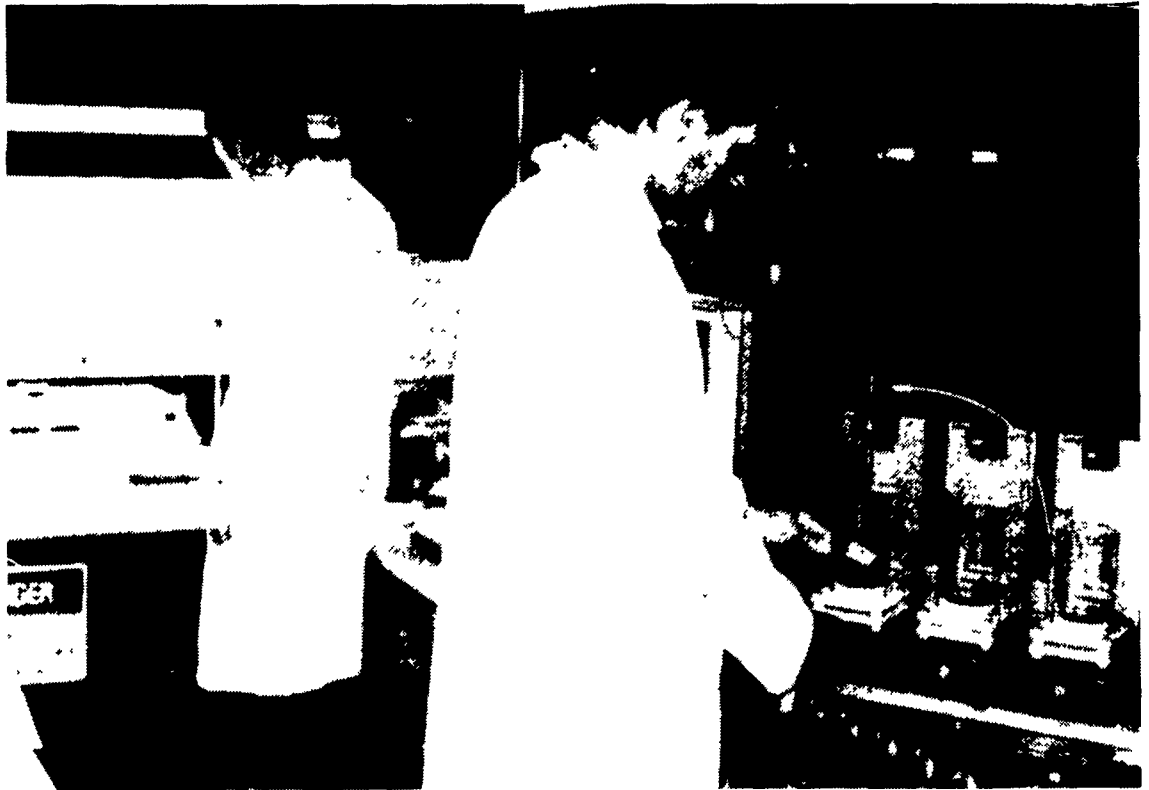
Mobile Lab Educates Farmers About Pollution

HERSHEY — This mobile nutrient laboratory made a farm call Wednesday in Dauphin County at the Elwillo Farms of William Capp, Hershey R1. The unit is a Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay water quality project that works to educate and demonstrate to farmers how excess nutrients applied to the soil by manure and commercial fertilizer can be a costly way to grow crops.

These excess nutrients can work their way into the underground water supply, as well as the streams and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The excess nutrients, especially nitrates, have been shown to be one of the major water pollutants of

the bay area.

In the test this week Russ Wagner, nutrient management specialist for Dauphin and Lebanon counties (back), and Ben Zimmer, Lancaster and Chester county specialist, go through the mechanics of testing manure for plant food values from several local farms. When the test is complete the farmers will be able to balance their commercial fertilizer needs with the plant food already available from the manure on their farms. The project also works with water samples and soil samples. Beside Wagner and Zimmer, Thomas Juengst works the York and Adams county area on the project.



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