Lebanon/Dauphin Crops Day

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when researchers began searching for answers to the Chesapeake Bay dilemma. Agricultural non-point source pollution was determined by experts to come from low amounts of chemicals leaching or running off fields. Potential point sources are mix and loading facilities, rinse water disposal sites, chemical spills, and sink holes.

The results of several studies done in different areas throughout the country pointed the finger at the point sources for contamination of ground water and not at non-point sources as orginally thought.

Water contamination is never good news, but these conclusions were a form of good news for farmers. In the majority of cases when traces of chemicals were detected in wells there was usually a chemical manufacturer/dealer near or there had been a recent chemical spill.

Locating the cause of chemical contamination to be point sources meant that the problem could be corrected much easier than if it was from pesticide/herbicide use. With the point sources as the major problems improvements such as loading pads designed to collect runoff rinse water could greatly curb contamination. Also, farmers could continue using agrichemicals.

Government agencies are just beginning to set tolerances for some of the detected chemicals. And those tolerances which have been established may soon be changed as the agencies gather more information.

Hartzler predicted the federal government may set a zero tolerance for ground water. The Environmental Protection Agency will come out with their recommendation in the next two years. Out of those will definitely come labeling changes on Atrazine®, according to Hartzler.

But there is good news because other chemicals have a good margin for safety. Their potential for contamination depends upon its rate of movement in soil, water soluability and its half-life. Hartzler said farmers may see recommendations differ according to soil type and texture and depth of water table. Some areas may be banned completely from certain chemicals. But there may be limitations in enforcing that due to insufficient manpower.

Much tighter restrictions are coming, according to Hartzler.

Forage Fertilization

"Lime goes a long way maintaining a proper alfalfa stand," said Beegle. "If you don't want to lime your fields you can plan to use 200-300 lbs. of fertilizer."

If you want to establish a good stand of alfalfa start planning when the field is still in corn. It not only makes sense, but it also makes dollars, too. Save dollars on commercial fertilizer by loading up those corn fields with manure. Use fertilizer to give your nutrient level a boost just prior to planning if your soil tests reveal you need it. Surface application after the bed has been seeded can only maintain nutrients. It cannot repair the damage done by poor planning.

Use lime to bring ph to the ideal level of 6.5 to 7. This improves the soil's ability to utilize available nitrogen.

Apply lime as early as a year before seeding. Even the most finely ground lime which is also the most costly takes atleast several months to affect the ph. Planning can allow the farmer to apply a less costly grade of lime and still get good results.

Beegle discouraged the use of band starter fertilizer in soils where fertility is up. Only under adverse conditions the farmer might see some benefit from his investment. Soil fertility should be optimum from manure and fertilizer application prior to seeding and can only be maintained by surface application and not corrected.

Hay yields typically remove 15-20 lbs. of phosphorous and 45 to 60 lbs. of potash per ton of hay. Soil test results note recommended levels of nutrient application which include what was removed by the yield and what is needed to keep your soil fertility at optimum levels.

Beegle urged farmers to establish what they beleive is an optimum level for them and to strive to maintain that level. Use soil tests to monitor the nutrient level. To build excessively high levels is costly to the farmer with no benefits. Excessive levels can limit crop production, cause environmental problems and waste precious dollars on fertilizer and application.

"If you do not use your test results and exceed the optimum range you are throwing your money away," warned Beegle. "Above that optimum range you get little or no return for your dollars."

Beegle recommended:

—economically build fertility levels with manure while in corn.

—apply fertilizer when it can be plowed down.

—apply 2 lbs. boron/acre along with P and K fertilizer.

—apply fertilizer after first and/or last cutting.

—do not apply manure on young stands.

—only use inoculant which is not outdated and has been kept from extreme heat and out of direct sunlight.

Other speakers on the agenda were: Sid Bosworth, extension agronomist, Penn State; Alfred Dugan, director of research at Milton Hershey School Farms; Galen Kopp, pesticide inspector, region IV, PDA; and Bruce Kreider, multi-county extension agent, farm management.

Change Keeps National FFA

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for the national organization only.

No longer is the FFA the organization for "farm boys" as intended at its inception in 1928. Due to the increasingly high percentage of non-farm members, fewer members are becoming "farmers". Many pursue careers in the broader spectrum of the agricultural industry.

The change is in response to changes in the agricultural industry and agricultural education. It is an effort to move the organization away from the negative image associated with farming and to broaden its scope beyond production agriculture. The change was not an easy one. Many members were opposed. Many felt the name change does little to change the image and that more effort was needed to change the public's awareness. Many felt altering the original name tampers with their 60-year-old tradition.

Members did agree on one thing. That the image of the organization depended upon individual members and chapters. It's what the organization does that matters and not what it's called. Directors felt the "farmer" label minimized the broader scope which the organization of 1989 has become.

A Second Look

At first glance the brilliant gold emblem that has become synonymous with the agricultural organization has changed little. The rising sun, the plow, the wise old owl and the American eagle are still there. But take a second look. The words "agricultural education" have replaced "vocational education". Small change for the emblem, but another major change for the organization.

Another effort to rectify the organization's image problem. For 60 years the National FFA has been directly associated with vocational education. However, in the past few years, the term has created a negative image. State education agencies have already dropped the term from curriculum descriptions. Dropping vocational, the directors believed, would reflect a more positive and professional agricultural organization creating greater appeal to more students.

There have been many changes in the face of American agriculture since the birthdate of the FFA. The organization not only kept in step, but more often was on the leading edge of change. The story of the organization has been one of constant change. 1989 brings nothing new to its members.

In its birth the FFA was the club for "farm boys" studying vocational agriculture in high schools. But by the time the organization moved into its fifth decade, several trends became apparent demanding attention from its leaders.

The organization noticed the changing make-up of their membership in the 1960s. A growing number of its members were non-farm students and the numbers were steadily increasing. Also, membership was no longer limited to males. Girls were active at state and local levels; however, they were not eligible for a full national membership until 1969.

Allowing girls to have a full national membership was probably the most visible change in the club's history. It was also one of the most controversial issues to come before the membership. Not only was group divided on the issue, but it was also divided on which group should make the decision.

Several of the FFA advisors felt the board of directors should have that power, but others felt that the decision should be done democratically and be left up to the vote of the delegates at the National FFA Convention.

The delegates voted in 1969 to amend the FFA Constitution making girls eligible for national membership, but it was 1976 before the organization had its first female national officer.

Another reaction to the changing membership came in 1963. The original FFA members were from farms and after graduation planned to return to the farm. However, the growing percentage of non-farm students who had no farm to return to demanded more from the organization.

Accomodation came in the form of the vocational acts of 1963. This opened the vocational-agriculture education classes to those non-farm students wanting agricultural training to pursue careers off the farm in the area of agricultural businesses. They could also enjoy membership in the FFA.

Encouraging excellence in all areas of training is another tradition and is the motive behind the various local, state and national FFA awards. In keeping with their tradition of building confidence through accomplishment and building leaders in all areas of agriculture, the Star Agribusiness award was created in 1967. By 1969 the first National Star Agribusiness Award was presented.

Further recognition of the new trend toward agribusiness was the creation of proficiency awards in agricultural sales and service, floriculture, nursery operations, outdoor recreation, turf and landscape management.

Twenty years ago the FFA recognized a trend which has become reality. As of 1989 it is estimated that only a few of the FFA's 405,000 members will become farmers. So the name "future farmers" was not only inaccurate, but it also lacked marketing appeal. And marketing the club has gained importance also. Membership rolls swelled in the mid-1970s at 507,000. Today it has dropped by 20 percent.

The name change, the change from vocational to agricultural education and the constant updating to accomodate their non-farm students are moves to increase membership and also to reflect the changes in the ag industry.

FFA's history, its current efforts to meet the demands of the ag industry is what has kept and will continue to keep the national organization on agricultural's leading edge.

New York, New Jersey Pay $13.07 For Milk

NEW YORK — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during December 1988 will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of $13.07 per hundredweight (28.1 cents per quart); the price for the corresponding month last year was $12.21 per hundredweight. Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the price was $13.18 in November 1988. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive plan does not affect the uniform price for the month of December.

A total of 13,682 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Area with 932,697,606 pounds of milk during December 1988. This was an increase of 2.2 percent (about 20 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was $125,958,754.46. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) used 400,964,379 pounds of milk for Class I, 43.0 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test, and skim milks. For December 1988, handlers paid $14.43 per hundredweight (31.0 cents per quart) for Class I milk compared with $13.90 a year ago.

The balance (531,733,227 pounds or 57.0 percent) was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Handlers paid $12.33 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. For December 1988, there was a price differential for 15.1 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received from farms in the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

Franklin County Plans Crops Days

CHAMBERSBURG — Franklin County Agent, John Shearer, has announced that the annual Franklin County Crops And Soils Day will be held Wednesday, February 22, at the Lemaster Community Center.

Twenty commercial exhibits will open at 9:00 a.m. An educational program will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Those in attendance will receive one core and one category credit for Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator license-renewal purposes. Penn State specialists will discuss "Forage Crops To Beat The Drought", "Forage Weeds—Influence on Quality", "How N, P, and K Work In The Soil", and "No-Till Forage Production."

A very-special feature will be the presentation of the USDA Bicentennial Farm Awards by John Akers, U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Wayne Kuhns, president of the Franklin County Crop Management Association, will discuss, "IPM---Soon, You Will Be Using It." Shearer will discuss "The Protection of Groundwater From Pesticides." He will also announce and recognize the winners of the 1988 Franklin County Alfalfa Growers' Program and the Corn Silage Club.

The event is being cosponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Ag-Industry exhibitors.

National FFA Week
February 18-25, 1989

Atlantic District Locals To Meet

SOUTHAMPTON, Pa. — The Lewistown-Shirleysburg and the Trough Creek-Big Valley Locals of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 18 will hold their annual dinner meeting March 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Belleville Mennonite School.

James S. Fraher, Atlantic's economist, will be the guest speaker. Fraher will report on cooperative business and milk pricing trends.

During the meeting, a 25-year membership plaque will be presented to the T. Ray Metz family of Mill Creek. Also, Jesse L. Peachy, Belleville, will receive a Quality Milk Award for receiving Atlantic's quality premium for all 12 months during the 1987-1988 fiscal year.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative represents 3,800 dairy farm families in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.