

Nutrient Management Planners Approved

SMOKETOWN (Lancaster Co.)—The USDA Soil Conservation Service has issued a list of fertilizer vendors and crop consultants who have been approved to develop nutrient management plans for environmental protection in the Pequea-Mill Creek Project area of Lancaster County.

These 25 ag chemical dealers and private consultants have com-

pleted nutrient management training and passed an examination sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Soil Conservation Service.

The nutrient management planners will use soil tests, information about manure production, and crop production information to recommend nutrient applications from manure and fertilizer to

achieve an optimum agronomic yield while ensuring acceptable environmental protection.

Planners will include the environmental protection feature by preparing a farm operator's nutrient management summary that has been developed by the agencies in Pennsylvania that are responsible for environmental protection. The summary includes a manure

spreading schedule, rates of manure application, and the fertilizer required to meet crop production needs.

Farmers will find that by working with an approved dealer or consultant, they'll be able to take advantage of the experience the dealer or consultant has in being a part of their farm operation in previous years. By being approved

and using the recognized forms, a dealer or consultant will be able to offer nutrient management for environmental protection as a new service.

To have a nutrient management plan prepared, farmers can contact the Pequea-Mill Creek Project office, 311B Airport Dr., Smoketown, PA 17576, (717) 396-9423 for a list of dealers and private consultants.

Elizabethtown Agriculture Project Bolsters Life Skills

(Continued from Page A26)

Gattens. "This is a unique educational experience for the students."

Stocking pond

"Mother Nature also has a way of getting stuff started out there on her own," said Gary L. Swihart, fishery assistance project leader with the wildlife service. Last week, Swihart visited the farm to work out the details of stocking the pond as part of the service's Partners In Wildlife program.

"We're just speeding up the process," he said.

Martin, who is supervising the "terraforming" of the wetlands site, said that various fish have already been ordered for stocking, including channel catfish, large mouth catfish, bluegills, and striped bass will soon be stocked. Already, the areas have been stocked with water plants, including waterlilies, watercress, and bullrushes. Cattails have been placed in the ditches, where they should grow rapidly, he said.

Also, the water chemistry and

flow are being studied.

Working closely

Erikson said that the ag department has been working closely with the administration and the school board on the project.

"I think the ag department has got to cater to life skills," he said. "Kids don't learn the traditional way. They learn visually, they learn by doing. And what better place to learn to do life skills than in agriculture?"

Next year, about 233 students are registered in ag programs at the school.

"If kids don't learn some of these projects and how to do them, then they're going to have to have a tremendously high-paying job to pay somebody else to do these things for them," he said. "And we can't teach sitting in a chair and our students sitting in a chair. That doesn't work anymore."

Erikson said, "You can tell a person, you can show a person, but if you get that person to do it, they understand it completely and the education is complete."

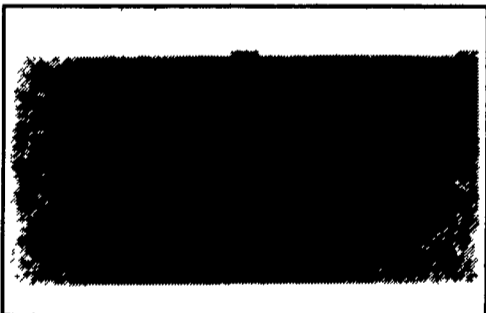


Nat Johnson, freshman, rototills the plot in which he will plant carrots, sunflower, and zucchini.



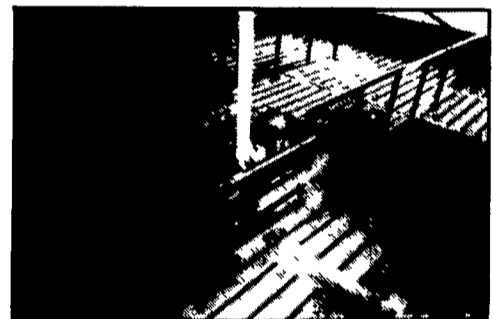
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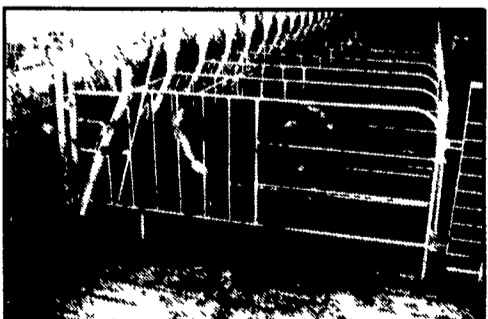


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