

Seminar Examines Land, Economical Issues Facing Farmers

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
BLUE BALL (Lancaster Co.)
— With legislative mandates proposed for nutrient management, Dr. John Schwartz, extension director, encouraged farmers at the Blue Ball Bank Seminar, "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

Originally a quote from John Wooden, retired UCLA basketball coach, Schwartz said that it applies appropriately as farmers struggle to comply with the legislation that has passed the House and will probably pass the Senate.

The good news, according to Schwartz, is that "you can write your own nutrient management plan if you are certified. And I feel confident as an educator that I can teach you to become certified," he said.

The 276 registrants attending the tenth annual seminar offered by Blue Ball Bank listened intently

as Don Weaver, a New Holland farmer, told how a nutrient management plan has worked for him during the past six years.

Weaver and his brother Nelson have a 100-acre farm in partnership and milk 80 cows. The brothers became interested in nutrient management before the idea was popular because they began having problems with water quality and were losing cows to health problems.

When Don and his wife had a daughter born mentally handicapped, there was concern that the drinking water had caused the disability. Although the drinking water can not be pinpointed as the exact cause, the possibility influenced the Weavers to take a new look at how they were managing their land.

"I previously thought that soil was simply dirt," Don said. "Now I realize that soil is life that needs to be nurtured and cared for in order

to remain healthy."

The Weavers with the help of AgRestore, Inc. analyzed the manure, feed, acreage, animals, and crops to come up with a plan to reduce use of fertilizers and herbicides, to restore soil life, and replenish soil fertility.

Weaver said, "That was six

years ago. It didn't work overnight, but I have gained confidence that the soil is now working for us."

Weaver reports that crop rotation eliminates need for rootworm control. That by not planting as early, using shallow tillage and a spot spray technique, and treating

the manure before it is spread on the fields has built up the organic level of the soil.

"The soil can hold more rain; the soil stays put, and the soil erosion problem has been reduced. It feels good to know that my place is not loaded with chemicals and toxins,"

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Speakers at the Blue Ball Bank Seminar include, from left: Lou Moore, Penn State economist; Dr. John Becker, Penn State ag law and economics professor; Richard Denison, PFA's associate administrator; Don R. Weaver, farmer and soil nutritionist; Dr. John Schwartz, Lancaster Extension director; and Kenneth Overly, Blue Ball Bank assistant vice president.

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Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%	Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%
CHEMGRO X312	171.7	CHEMGRO 7392	208.0
CHEMGRO 7793	171.0	CHEMGRO 7692	203.8
CHEMGRO 6988	168.7	Hardy 6334	197.0
Pioneer 3293	168.6	CHEMGRO 7793	195.8
Pioneer 3241	167.5	CHEMGRO X316	192.8
CHEMGRO 7793	162.9	CHEMGRO 6988	189.5
CHEMGRO 7386	156.1	Funks 4624	188.7
CHEMGRO 7692	155.7	CHEMGRO 7888	186.5
CHEMGRO 7191	155.2	CHEMGRO 7191	185.5
Pioneer 3293	152.1	CHEMGRO 7386	180.5
CHEMGRO 7392	150.6		
CHEMGRO 7888	138.7		

PAUL B. MARTIN Kutztown, PA Harvested Oct. 20, 1992		DAVID FREY Lancaster, PA Harvested Nov. 9, 1992	
Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%	Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%
CHEMGRO 7392	198.4	CHEMGRO 7191	187.0
Pioneer 3293	193.8	CHEMGRO 7692	176.9
CHEMGRO 7793	191.5	CHEMGRO 7392	176.6
CHEMGRO 7793	189.9	CHEMGRO X316	172.0
CHEMGRO 7191	188.6	CHEMGRO 6988	171.0
Pioneer 3245	184.2	CHEMGRO 7793	170.7
CHEMGRO 7692	182.0	CHEMGRO 7888	167.2
CHEMGRO 6988	177.7	Hardy 6334	165.1
CHEMGRO 7386	176.9	Gutwein 2751	159.9
Doebblers 84XP	174.6	CHEMGRO 7386	150.9
CHEMGRO 7888	174.1		
Doebblers 86XA-2	164.6		

PHARES NEWSWANGER Newmanstown, PA Harvested Oct. 26, 1992		LEROY E. HOWARD Oley, PA Harvested Oct. 21, 1992	
Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%	Variety	Bu/Acre 15.5%
CHEMGRO 7392	181.2	CHEMGRO 6988	161.1
CHEMGRO 7793	172.3	CHEMGRO 7191	160.1
CHEMGRO X316	166.9	CHEMGRO X316	159.5
Doebblers 75X2	164.0	CHEMGRO 7392	154.9
CHEMGRO 7692	165.5	CHEMGRO 7386	153.9
CHEMGRO 7191	159.7	CHEMGRO 7793	148.5
CHEMGRO 7386	155.3	Pioneer 3293	148.3
CHEMGRO 7888	155.1	CHEMGRO 7692	148.1
CHEMGRO 6988	153.6	CHEMGRO 7888	146.0
CFS W7877	135.7	Pioneer 3241	144.5
		Funks 4672	130.1
		Pioneer 3394	123.7

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