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agriculture, or who have "sufficient knowledge, experience or familiarity with agronomic or nutrient management practices," according to the tenets of the Nutrient Management Act.

The board has indicated it intends to hold a public hearing before signing off on its final recommendations for the requirements and responsibilities of a state certified nutrient management technician/planner.

The meeting on Wednesday was called primarily to discuss a proposal for "Interim Criteria for Nutrient Management Plans."

According to the Nutrient Management Act, which created the advisory board, the State Conservation Commission is to create regulations for the administration of the act.

However, the law is written openly enough so that the commission members may develop the definitions and specific responsibilities continually.

But to get to a starting point, members must have some idea of what a nutrient management plan would comprise, and consequentially, what responsibilities and expertise would be required of a certified nutrient management planner.

The role of the advisory board is to review, prior to the commission members considering, any proposed regulations the commission may wish to discuss for development and approval.

The term "interim" was discussed several times Wednesday by board members.

It was agreed that the purpose of developing "Interim Criteria for Nutrient Management Plans" is not to create specifics by which nutrient management plans would have to comply, but instead, to identify more general areas of concern upon which a detailed plan would elaborate.

What the board considered were five major areas of concern: nutrient application, manure management, excess manure, erosion and sediment control, and laws, regulations and ordinances.

While commission staff had included some specifics in their suggestions for board review, board members quickly objected to the discussion of details.

It was argued and agreed that, in order for nutrient management planning to work, the guidelines must be flexible enough to apply to the various types of farming and non-farming applications of nutrients.

The other purpose of developing "interim criteria" is for use by those within the state Department of Agriculture who have been charged with developing a nutrient management technician certification program.

It was explained that, with an outline of the responsibilities expected of a certified planner, PDA officials can better prepare a program proposal that reflects the desires of agriculturists and environmentalists.

Although there was confusion over the term "interim," it was agreed that even when the board does recommend an "interim certification" program, it will not qualify anyone to create officially

approved nutrient management plans.

Instead, the board members said that an "interim certification" would equate to a "pre-certification."

Specifically, it was said that those who would qualify for pre-certification would be further on their way toward attaining full and first qualification for certification, once the board, the PDA, and eventually the State Conservation Commission, approve standards for certification.

Board chairman Donald Bollinger, of Kleinfeltersville, said that the board is progressing well in its discussions of the issues and that much work remains.

In other business, William Brubaker, a board member who represents the commercial fertilizer industry, presented to the board his industry's program for certifying crop advisors.

According to Brubaker, the agronomic knowledge requirements included in testing to be a certified crop advisor includes everything that a nutrient management technician should have as a base.

Also, Brubaker said that a certain number of years of experience as an uncertified crop advisor were necessary depending on the years of college education in order to gain certification, but that testing was open to anyone, regardless of officially recognized educational achievement.

He provided each member with a copy of the crop advisor testing information and asked them to review it for consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 19 in the state Capitol building, in Room 8A, of the East Wing.

## Tillage Event

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be available at \$6 each from the Cooperative Extension office. They must be purchased in advance-not later than December 6.

Speakers and topics for the morning program are as follows:

- "Innovations in Agriculture" - Dr. Dennis R. Keeney, director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and professor of soil microbiology at Iowa State University.

- "Weed Control Update" - Dr. Ronald L. Ritter, Extension Agronomist, University of Maryland at College Park.

- "Conservation Tillage & Small Grains" - F. Ronald Mul-

ford, farm manager, Poplar Hill Facility, Lower Eastern Shore Research & Education Center, University of Maryland.

- "Crop Residue Management" - Joel C. Myers, state agronomist for Pennsylvania, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pa.

The last three topics will be aired twice, in consecutive 40-minute breakout sessions, providing opportunity to hear two of the three speakers.

Afternoon program topics will include economic impacts of environmental regulations, fertility and nutrient management, forages and water quality improvement programs.

## Survey

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and "uncertain/no opinion."

Respondents disagreed nearly 2-to-1 with the statement "The government should use a voluntary milk supply control like a milk diversion program or dairy buyout." By a margin of more than 2-to-1, farmers disagreed with the statement "The government should use a mandatory milk supply control program such as a marketing quota." Among those who agreed with mandatory milk supply controls, less than half agreed strongly.

"Only 7.4 percent of respondents agreed strongly with voluntary supply control and only 8.9

percent strongly supported mandatory supply control," said Yonkers. "Among those who disagreed with supply controls, more than half disagreed strongly."

"This survey found much less support for supply control programs among Pennsylvania dairy farmers than some reports have asserted," Yonkers said.

Farmers were more divided about the statement "The government should subsidize export programs for U.S. dairy products." However, more agreed than disagreed that there is a need for subsidized exports, with 48.5 percent agreeing, 34.6 percent disagreeing and 16.8 percent uncertain.



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