

# Tillage Conference Looks At Soil Nitrate Test

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff  
HAGERSTOWN, Md. — New developments in the presidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) and how it can be used by farmers to save money on the cost of sidedressing corn will be addressed at the 20th annual Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference on Thursday, Dec. 16 here at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center.

If used properly, PSNT can save farmers the cost of nitrogen sidedressing for corn when adequate levels of residual fertilizer are present. **Plans Need To Be Implemented Now**

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — January 1, 1995 is the date for farmers who participate in USDA programs to have their conservation plans implemented on their farm fields, said John Akers, district conservationist with the Chambersburg Field Office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

This date was established by Congress in the 1985 Farm Bill for farmers who take part in Federal Crop Insurance, Farmers Home Administration, and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service commodity programs.

These farmers should review their conservation plans now and make arrangements to implement any remaining conservation practices in the spring of 1994. If the farming operation has changed since the conservation plans were developed and a revision is needed, call the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office in Chambersburg at (717) 264-7013 to schedule an appointment to have your plan updated.

Also, if technical assistance is needed to establish strips, grassed waterways, and other practices, the SCS office should be contacted to schedule time with the individual farmers.

It is important for participating farmers to have their conservation plans fully implemented because field checks are made on a selected percent of farms each year to check on compliance.

"We hope to provide timely assistance to farmers who request it," said Akers, "but they need to schedule ahead of time with our office to meet these deadlines."

sent, according to Dr. Frank J. Coale, extension agronomist, University of Maryland at College Park, and Dr. John J. Meisinger, soil scientist, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. Thus, the PSNT can be a useful nutrient management tool.

A way to farm profitability and be safe on the environment forms the backbone of much of the information available to those who attend the conference, open free of charge. The conference's topic, "Conservation Tillage: Facing Change," addresses this concern through a variety of methods, from the general session beginning at 9 a.m., "Innovations in Agriculture," to be presented by Dr. Dennis R. Keeney, director, Leopold

Center for Sustainable Agriculture and professor of soil microbiology, Iowa State University through water quality improvement programs in the last part of the concurrent sessions in the afternoon.

Breakout sessions throughout the morning cover such topics as weed control, conservation tillage and small grains, and crop residue management. Other sessions highlight fertility and nutrient management, forages in conservation tillage programs, and water quality improvement programs. The general session in the afternoon studies the economic impacts of environmental regulations on agriculture.

The educational program will start at 9 a.m. and last until 3:45

p.m. There will be a break for lunch and a chance to visit exhibitors. A copy of the day's schedule is included in this issue of *Lancaster Farming*.

Dr. Lester R. Vough, extension agronomist, University of Maryland at College Park, and Donald M. Schwartz, extension agricultural agent, Washington County, Md. will report on winter grazing of rye and other small grains. Both speakers report that farmers can use this information to cut feed costs, increase livestock income, and qualify for federal cost-sharing payments for erosion-controlling cover crops.

According to Vough, Mid-Atlantic farmers have not capitalized sufficiently on their regional

advantage in beef cattle production. Also, the Mid-Atlantic area has milder winters than the Midwest, and has better quality summer forage available for farmers than in the Southeast. More cattle finishing operations could exist here with those kind of conditions.

Printed summaries will be available free at the conference.

For more information, contact planning committee chairman Donald M. Schwartz, Cooperative Extension Service, 1260 Md. Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740, or call him at (301) 791-1304. Also, more information can be obtained from Bob Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Service, (717) 394-6851, or publicity director T. Milton Nelson, (301) 405-4596.

## 20th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference

December 16, 1993

### DAY'S PROGRAM

Donald M. Schwartz, presiding

8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS OPEN  
Free Coffee & Donuts

9:00 a.m. GENERAL SESSION A  
Innovations in Agriculture  
Dr. Dennis R. Keeney, Director  
Leopold Center for Sustainable  
Agriculture & Professor of Soil  
Microbiology, Iowa State University

10:20 a.m. CONCURRENT  
BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

A. Weed Control Update  
Dr. Ronald L. Ritter  
Extension Agronomist  
University of Maryland

B. Conservation Tillage &  
Small Grains  
Mr. F. Ronald Mulford  
Poplar Hill Facility  
Research & Education Center  
University of Maryland

C. Crop Residue Management  
Mr. Joel C. Myers  
State Agronomist  
Pennsylvania SCS

11:05 a.m. CONCURRENT  
BREAKOUT SESSIONS II  
(Repeat Session I topics, allowing  
opportunity to hear two of the three  
speakers)

11:45 a.m. LUNCH  
Visit Exhibits

1:30 p.m. GENERAL SESSION B  
Economic Impacts of Environmental  
Regulations on Agriculture  
Dr. James S. Shortle  
Agricultural Economics & Rural  
Sociology Department  
Pennsylvania State University

2:20 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

A. Fertility & Nutrient Mgmt.  
Dr. Frank J. Coale  
Extension Agronomist  
University of Maryland

&  
Dr. John J. Meisinger  
Soil Scientist, ARS-USDA  
Beltsville Area

B. Forages in Conservation Tillage  
Programs  
Dr. Lester R. Vough  
Extension Agronomist  
University of Maryland

C. Water Quality Improvement  
Programs  
Norman A. Berg, Supervisor  
Anne Arundel Soil Cons. District  
(former Chief, SCS-USDA)

3:05 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV  
(Repeat Session III topics, allowing  
opportunity to hear two of the three  
speakers)

3:45 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

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