

## PROCLAMATION

The people of Decatur are dependent for their livelihoods upon our natural resources—soils, water, forests, grasslands, minerals and wildlife. These contribute in hundreds of ways to the growth and development of the state's industry, commerce, and agriculture. We also recognize the need for open spaces—the wilderness and scenic areas, fields, forests, grasslands, waters and shorelines—that are so vitally important to the physical and mental well-being of the ever-increasing numbers of citizens who find pleasure and relaxation in the out-of-doors.

The week of March 20 through 26 will be observed across the nation as National Wildlife Week. This is a time set aside for people to give special attention to the problem of providing proper care for the lands and waters upon which all of us depend. The 1960 Wildlife Week program focuses attention on the growing need for protecting our depleted water supplies that play such an essential role in almost every phase of our daily lives—in our homes, businesses, industries, and in providing us with wholesome recreation.

Water—as one of our most precious natural assets—has suffered severely from man's neglect. Pollution, drainage, burning and mistreatment of forests, abuse of farmlands, and other wasteful practices have led to critical shortages which are faced today by many communities within our state and throughout the nation. To restore our water supplies and to provide for growing populations, people must study our water needs and contribute actively to plans for sound, long-range water conservation programs.

This is a responsibility that must be shared by citizens of Decatur. I, therefore, proclaim that National Wildlife Week will be observed in Decatur, March 20-26, 1960, as an occasion for creating public awareness of our nation's growing water problems, and I urge the people of our city to study and support those programs that will provide protection for this most important resource.

Donald F. Gage, Mayor

## Of This And That

By  
Lois M. Folk

Home Demonstration Agent

"If you would visit our office now, you would not only find us busy with winter activities, but planning for Spring and Summer. At present we, along with many 4-H leaders, are beginning another 4-H club year. National 4-H club week begins March 7 and enrollment ends in Adams County on March 15. To you this means that your sons and daughters will be needing your opinion on what to take and you will be signing enrollment cards. If you don't know who your local 4-H leaders are, let us know.

"Scopy Party for Young Homemakers  
Last Monday evening, fifty girls enrolled for the series of classes for Young Homemakers. The group will meet in two sessions, one will meet in Berne Monday evenings beginning February 29; and the other group will meet in

Decatur Thursday and Tuesday evenings beginning March 3. The party was in charge of the Young Homemakers' Steering Committee consisting of: Mrs. Richard Augsburger, Mrs. Richard Marbach, Mrs. Dale Fruechte, Mrs. Jerry Price, Mrs. Leonard Schwartz, Mrs. Earl Sprunger, and Mrs. Darrell Arnold. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Dan Striker, and Mrs. Sheldon Wagley. Mrs. Kym Yoder and Mrs. Richard Everett helped by making cookies.

There is still time to enroll in the classes if you wish. Call or write the Adams County Extension Office, Decatur.

## Potatoes, Potatoes

One out of every five potatoes you eat is processed in some way or another. Every year new potato products are coming to market and people welcome them. For example, the instant mashed potatoes have been very well accepted. This product eliminates peeling and pre-cooking, and most people are satisfied with the flavor. The frozen French fries have been selling well, too. These are a money saver if you consider the cost of the fat you would use to French fry your own. Actually, most people won't bother French frying potatoes at home and this gives them menu variety with little work. Also in the frozen potato line are baked, stuffed potatoes ready for the oven. (By the way, you can freeze your own stuffed, baked potatoes if you wish.) Diced potatoes, potato patties and potato soup are other recent frozen potato products. Potato chips are by far the most popular of all the processed potato foods. "De-Starched" or "low calorie" potato chips do have calories because of the fat used in frying the chips. The fat contributes more calories than the starch does anyway.

Pork and carrots are both good buys right now. Carrots are coming out of cold storage and they are tender with a wonderful sweet flavor and little care. For supper this week you might try this recipe for variety, and save money too.

**Cosmopolitan Pork Steaks**  
6 pork blade steaks, cut 1" thick  
2 Tablespoons of lard or drippings  
1 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
4 to 6 medium carrots cut lengthwise  
1 can (10 1/2 oz.) condensed mushroom soup

Brown pork in lard or drippings over low heat. Pour off drippings. Season with salt and pepper. Add soup and carrots, cover tightly and simmer one hour or until done. Serves 6.

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## Fertilization Program Should Be Tailored To Fit Each Farm

Efficiency in the use of fertilizer should be the key word for every farmer.

This has been borne out by the experience of several farmers in Virginia who have found that they can reduce their per-unit costs by implementing a sound fertilization program tailored to their individual farms. In most cases, this has meant an increase in the use of fertilizer on each acre already under production, along with other good management practices.

In outlining such a fertilization program, each farm must be analyzed to determine the fertilizer practices best suited for the farmer's individual farming operation. By applying research information and utilizing fertilizer most efficiently, the farm operator can help solve the question of how to trim his per-unit costs.

Fertilizer continues to be one of the best "buys" the farmer can make. A price comparison for the last 20 to 25 years shows that the price of fertilizer has not increased as much as have other goods and services that a farmer buys. While fertilizer prices (on a tonnage basis) increased more than 50 percent during this period, other fixed costs have risen much higher.

Fertilizer prices in terms of plant food content, are only slightly higher than they were in 1939. Prices of all items farmers buy have advanced 146 percent in the same period. In 1939, the plant food content of an average ton of fertilizer was 20.3 percent. Today, it averages 30.2 percent. This increase in plant food content has practically offset the 51 percent increase in the average price per ton of fertilizer. Thus, on the basis of what actually is in the bag, the cost of fertilizer today is less than 2 percent more than it was in 1939.

Wage rates have risen 369 percent; farm machinery, 136 percent; and farm supplies, 110 percent. This means that fertilizer, when used properly, can be substituted profitably for additional land, labor, and supplies.

In other words, a farmer in most instances should try to attain the high production potential of the land that he is presently farming, thus increase the efficiency of his operation. However, this does not mean that additional land could not be incorporated into the present operation.

Interest and participation in an educational soils and fertilizer-lime program in Virginia is rapidly growing. It is felt that just as soils are basic in the production of plants, so is an educational soils program essential in assisting farmers to attain the most economic yields from their crops.

The following points are considered fundamental in working out an efficient fertilization and lime program:

1. Know the soil: It has been said that "every soil has its proper use." Because of the different characteristics of soils, their use, management, and potential are quite different. For example, flue-cured tobacco, alfalfa, and ladino tall grass pastures can be grown successfully on quite different soils.

2. Select the crops to be grown: Different crops and their utilization require different fertilizer and lime programs. Alfalfa and corn are examples of two crops that require different management practices.

3. Know the past history: This is important in making fertilizer and lime recommendations and should include a record of crops, fertilization, liming and other management practices, taking into consideration any unusual conditions.

4. Use the soil test: The soil test can be a valuable aid in determining the fertilizer and lime needs for different soils and crops. It indicates the fertility level of the soil as well as the possible need for lime. The soil test, together with the other information, provides a scientific basis for correct fertilizer and lime usage.

In addition to the four points above, other good farm manage-

ment practices must be included if the farmer is to attain efficient production.

To put it another way, he might very well find it to be more advantageous in the short run to use more of his available capital for other inputs such as lime, improved livestock or new equipment. On the other hand, the well-established farmer with more adequate capital and established credit, would find it profitable to push in the direction of the real "economic optimum."

Returns above variable expenses for corn and wheat show the same pattern as for sugar beets. The "economic optimum" is at the \$30 fertilizer input when improved practices are used and \$5 less when only average production practices are in operation.

Farmers need to consider the effect on the income and expenses for the entire farm of using different amounts of fertilizer. A study was made recently of the effects on net income for a 120-acre farm when fertilizer was applied at the "economic optimum" and at lower rates. It was assumed that a typical crop production for this farm included 30 acres each of sugar beets, corn, wheat and alfalfa-brome grass.

The total cost of applying fertilizer at the most profitable rate on this 120-acre farm would be \$3,600. If this farmer reduced his fertilizer expenditures by \$5 per acre, \$600 of his capital would be available for other purposes. However, he could expect to reduce his net income by \$239. This means that by investing this \$600 in fertilizer, he could expect a return on his money of 40 percent.

The \$1,800 required to supply the last \$15 per acre worth of fertilizer needed for most profitable yields would produce a net return on the investment of \$1,470, or 81 percent. This would seem to indicate that only under conditions of limited credit can the farmer afford not to borrow money, if needed, to apply fertilizer at the most profitable rate.

Farmers often suffer even greater losses in net income by not making good use of recommended varieties, improved production practices and suitable technologies. Gross receipts, variable expenses and returns above variable expenses were calculated for the 120-acre farm when average and improved practices were used.

When most economic quantities of fertilizer were applied, sugar beet yields were estimated at 14.8 tons for average practices and 19.4 tons for improved practices. The net gain by using improved rather than average practices was calculated as \$39.74 per acre or \$1,192.20 for the 30 acres. Net gains per acre would be \$13.19 for corn, \$11.61 for wheat and \$13.20 for alfalfa-brome grass for a total of \$2,332 for the 120 acres of crops grown.

In order to attain this high level of yields and returns, it would be necessary for many farmers to make substantial investments in tile drainage and improved machinery.

Other improvements would require less investment but greater annual expenditures for lime, better adapted seed, and spray material for weed and insect control. Practices such as minimum tillage would result in small additional investments but in substantial annual savings in fuel and other operating expenses.

Purdue University entomologists recommend checking of bee hives during warm periods to determine whether the colonies are alive.

Good management can largely prevent pregnancy disease in ewes. Purdue University veterinarians point out. Ewes should get plenty of exercise, and during the last six weeks of pregnancy should receive enough grain to cause a slight, but steady increase in weight.

## Corn Contests Increase Yields, And Efficiency

Washington, D. C.—Corn yield contests, familiar to most "competitive spirited" midwest farmers, have done much to acquaint farmers and agricultural workers with the yield potential of soils in their area and the need for production efficiency to get top profits. University of Minnesota soils specialist, C. J. Overdahl, reports.

Reporting on Minnesota's successful "Extra Profit" corn contest, Overdahl says that since the contest was initiated in 1953, both farmers and specialists have learned how corn yields can be profitably increased through right fertilizer usage.

They have learned that corn stands must be high to get full benefit from fertilizers. For example, when populations were below 12,000 stalks per acre fertilizer increased yields only 6 bushels. While with populations 16,000 or higher, fertilizers raised yields 23 bushels. These figures are from a 6-year average for all fields in the contest.

They have learned how reliable soil tests are in predicting fertilizer needs. For example, when L. D. Hanson, also Minnesota soils specialist, used soil tests to classify various fields into high, medium, and low phosphate and potash content, he found that the fields checking high in these nutrients had a yield increase of only 22% when they received fertilizer. The fields checking medium showed a 45% yield increase. And the fields checking low showed a whopping 142% yield increase by receiving high phosphate and potash fertilizer.

The Minnesota specialists have decided to put future stress on the profit phase of the contest since yield data has begun to tell the same story every year. Each year the high yield champion gets approximately 100 bushels per acre, and there is no trend upward regardless of fertilizer rates, Overdahl reports.

Complete details of Dr. Overdahl's report can be secured by writing for Better Crops Report J-10-59, American Potash Institute, 1102 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

## 125 State Fair Trips Available

One hundred twenty-five State Fair Camp garden school trip awards will be available to Indiana 4-H club members and Future Farmers of America who enter the garden club and strawberry project program this year.

Roscoe Fraser, Purdue University extension horticulturist, and W. R. Amick, associate in 4-H work at Purdue, said awards would be distributed among the 92 counties.

Garden club members may secure their seed from any source and be eligible for all prizes and awards. However, the Ferry-Morse Seed Company and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation are co-operating with the Indiana Junior Vegetable Growers and the Purdue agricultural extension department in furnishing garden seeds. Seeds, in group orders, will be sent post paid to local garden club leaders or agricultural agents.

In addition to the State Fair trip awards for garden club and strawberry project winners, transportation and lodging expenses paid trips to the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association meeting will be given. Furnished by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, these will go to 10 or more youths who rank highest at the State Fair garden school. Two trips also will be awarded to the NJVGA to the boy

## Location, Dates For FFA Sales

Dates and locations for 1960 4-H and Future Farmer of America pig sales have been announced by Ralph Bishop, secretary-treasurer of the Indiana Swine Breeders' Association.

Dates, places and managers: April 29, Lafayette, Bob McKee, Lafayette.

April 30, Greencastle, Warren Kessler, Jr., Crawfordsville.

May 6, Rushville, Harry Caldwell, Connersville.

May 7, Alexandria, Loren Smith, Hartford City.

Ninety seven registered pigs were sold at the four sales last year. Animals, donated by cooperating swine producers, are sold to 4-H and FFA members only.

Purdue University's agricultural extension service is co-operating with the swine industry in the sales, according to Eric Holm, coordinator of the pig sale project and state 4-H staff member.

## 1959 Was Bad Year For Red Leaf In Oats

The worst outbreak of the Red Leaf disease of oats in history struck Indiana and the other corn belt states in 1959. This disease, also called Yellow Dwarf, is present every year, according to Dr. Ralph M. Caldwell, Purdue University plant pathologist. But fortunately it does not always cause severe damage.

The last preceding year of severe damage was 1949 when many farmers called the disease grey spot, because of the dead-grey color of or straw of spots over the fields. Oats yield loss in the state in 1959 is estimated at about 25 percent. Early planted fields were less injured than late planted fields.

The disease is caused by a virus and spread by aphids or plant lice. Whenever large numbers of aphids appear in early May, the disease may be expected to be severe. The symptoms of the disease are unmistakable. Young plants become stunted and leaves turn red or reddish yellow. If plants are attacked early, as in 1959, little grain is produced. If the disease comes later, the plants produce only small heads.

Purdue Putnam and Newton varieties were little damaged by red leaf in 1959. Seed of these varieties is available from certified seed growers and seed dealers.

Putnam has the highest yield record of any oat thus far tested in Indiana. It also produces the best test weight and quality of grain. Putnam is the earliest oat available and is therefore recommended both in southern and northern Indiana where it has been the highest yielding variety available.

Newton, nearly equal to Putnam in performance in 1959, is a high yielding variety over all of the state. In most years it has had very strong straw equal to or better than other recommended varieties.

One-half sack of almost any analysis of commercial fertilizer will enrich garden soil, say Purdue University horticulturists. It can be added to each spreader load of manure and broadcast before the garden is plowed.

or girl with the highest score in vegetable judging at the State Fair. The 1960 NJVGA meeting will be held at Colorado Springs in December.

Members of 4-H and FFA are urged to contact their county agricultural agent or vocational teacher for detailed information.

## County Agent's Corner

By Leo N. Seltentright

National 4-H Week—March 5-12

4-H club work was emphasized the past week by programs presented in various schools throughout the county. This is about two weeks ahead of National 4-H Club Week and will give prospective 4-H members time to think the program over and talk to their parents about it. Each of the local 4-H leaders has an opportunity to get boys and girls information on how and when to enroll in their local clubs. The programs were given at the suggestion of several 4-H adult leaders and time will tell as to how helpful they were.

## Feeder Pig Auction

Some discussion was sparked as the result of a meeting last week to explore the possibilities of having a feeder pig auction in Adams County. Facilities to hold such an auction were offered by Dan Steward of P. B. Steward and Company. This is the Berne-Genova Sale Barn. Any reactions, suggestions, or criticisms to a program like this would be welcomed by the county agent or Paul Yoder, chairman of the swine committee. Let us know!

## Junior Corn Growers Meeting

Daniel Lantz, Jr., Ronald Haggard, Gail Egly, Mrs. Holman Egly, and the county agent attended the 8th Annual 4-H Junior Corn Growers Jamboree at Purdue University Saturday, Feb. 13. The meeting was very interesting. It included the showing of a new film "Scientific and Selection, A Must in Modern Farming" made by the Indiana Crop Improvement Association. It is an excellent film.

The program was sponsored by the Fertilizer Division of Indiana Farm Bureau Co-Op, the Indiana Crop Improvement Association, and the State 4-H Club Office.

## Certified Varieties

If you are interested in Indiana Certified Varieties, you might like a copy of our Key to Certified Varieties. It is published by the Seed Certification Service. Information is included on soybeans, grasses, legumes, oats, wheat, and corn.

**Legumes**  
Late February and early March has proven to be a good time for broadcasting small seed legume on frozen wheat ground.

**Nitrogen**  
Nitrogen applied to wheat early gives greater returns. Twenty-five to 30 pounds of nitrogen applied during February will increase wheat yields at harvest time.

**Alfalfa**  
Alfalfa is a heavy feeder of potash. A lack of potash is often the reason for loss of stand. Consider that a 4-ton crop of alfalfa pumps out of the soil the amount of potash in 900 pounds of 0-20-20 fertilizer. That's why the potash "soil bank account" often runs low.

**Dairy**  
An excellent dairy program was presented by the Hubbard Milling Company last Thursday evening at Berne. Points stressed were proper conditioning of the dry cow, gradual raising grain feeding just after freshening, under-feeding during the lactation, and wise use of pasture, including feeding hay during the pasture season.

## Steiner Presented Course Certificate

Martin Steiner, of Monroe, recently completed an extensive training course in livestock and poultry feeding and management and was presented with certificate of completion. The course of study was composed of three parts and is conducted for sales and service men of the Moorman Mfg. Co. of Quincy, Ill. In completing the third or final phase, Steiner is now considered a professional feed counsellor.

"The certificate presented to him is the top honor of its kind awarded to Moorman feed men," said Paul Cory, sales manager of Moorman's. The study covered virtually all aspects of care, feeding, sanitation and management of hogs, dairy cattle, beef cattle, chickens and sheep. It consisted of study, written exercises and field work.



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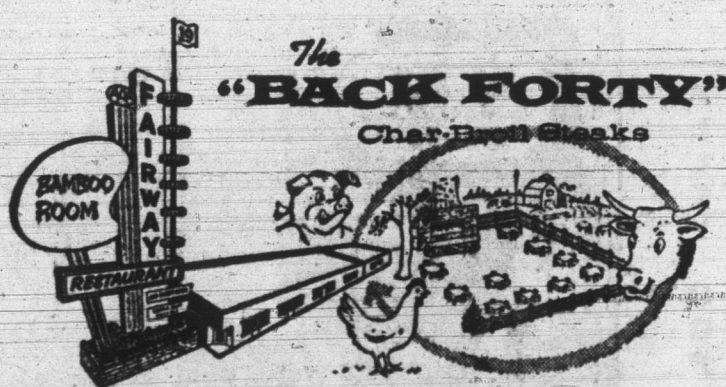
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