

Adams County Farmers' Corner

County Agent's Corner

By Ernest J. Lesiuk
County Extension Agent
Agriculture

Farmers can not dependably germinate their own cereal grain seed at this time of year under most conditions because its germination will be much lower than the seed's potential. This is especially true of wheat and of such grasses as timothy and tall fescue.

A. S. Carter, director of seed control and state chemist services at Purdue University, points out that to break this dormancy the state seed testing laboratory must give the seed special treatment to measure the seed's potential germination.

The standard method for breaking the dormancy of freshly harvested wheat is to put the seeds in contact with moist substrata and then pre-chill them at about 5 degrees C. for five days prior to starting the regular seven-day germination test. Seed wheat that might otherwise show 50 to 60 per cent germination during the seven-day period without pre-chilling can be brought in the 90 per cent germination by the chilling process. All seed wheat to be offered for sale to farmers must be tested before it is put on the market as seed.

Renovated Pasture
Reed wheat is excellent for seeding in renovated pasture in September. It will offer some fall pasture and can either be grazed next spring or harvested for grain. Under either circumstance, the fall seed grass and legume will be better able to withstand competition and will furnish more forage during the first summer. A good seed bed is necessary and the legume and grass should be hand seeded at the time the wheat is sown. This means placing part of the fertilizer in bands directly beneath the seeds. Phosphate applied by this method stimulates young seedlings.

Feed Heifers Grain
About two months before calving, feed dairy heifers some grain to condition them for milk production. They should be confined to clean pastures near the barns where they can be inspected frequently. Walking the heifers through the milking parlor aids in accustoming them to the milking routine after calving.

Free stall housing allows dairy cows a degree of privacy without confinement; bedding is saved, injuries are reduced, and the animals stay cleaner than in completely open loafing barns.

Minerals needed by dairy cattle are calcium, phosphorus and salt. A sheltered box containing two compartments works well for providing minerals out of doors. Salt should be placed in one compartment and a mixture of 2 parts dicalcium phosphate or steamed bone meal and 1 part salt placed in the other compartment.

Morris' Knee Injured

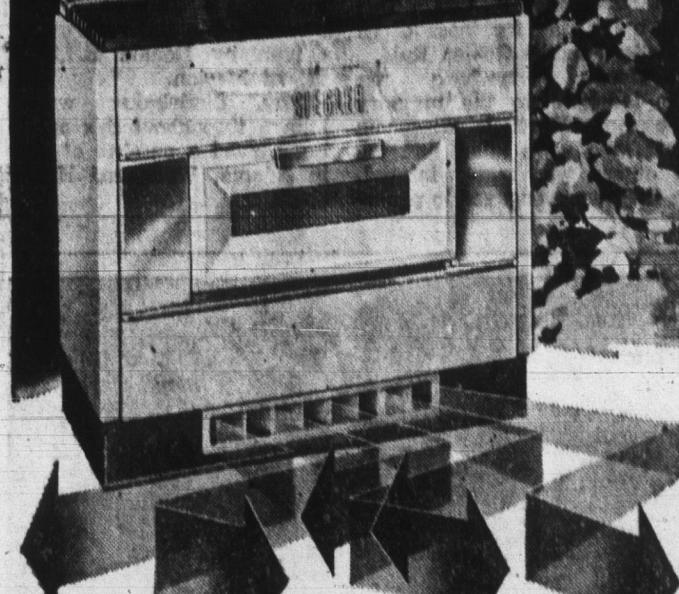
CHICAGO (UPI) — Chicago Bear linebacker Larry Morris, most valuable player in last year's NFL championship game, underwent surgery Monday for a knee injury suffered against the Green Bay Packers on Sunday. He will be out of action for an undetermined time.

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Purple Pennings

By Patsy Lee Leaders
County Extension Agent
Home Economics

September 16 is W. I. S. E. day in Wells county, so for those who are planning to attend, please remember that the meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the 4-H exhibit hall at the 4-H fairgrounds.

HONORS TO RITA NORQUEST:

Miss Rita Norquest, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Norquest, has received another outstanding honor — she has been selected by the staff of the state fair girls school to return next year as assistant director of the school. For those of you who may not be familiar with the system of the school, I shall try to explain so that you will know that a great honor she has received.

Two years ago Rita was selected as one of three Adams county 4-H girls by the 4-H council to represent Adams county at the state fair girls school. This is itself was outstanding recognition of all the years of 4-H activities which Rita has given to the county. While at state fair girls school, last summer she was chosen as one of the 12 honor girls from a group of 380 girls from over the state. This summer Rita was an honor girl, which meant she acted as a "big sister" to a group of state fair girls. From this outstanding group of 12 honor girls, Rita was chosen to return next summer as the assistant director of the school.

Rita's main responsibility will be coordinating the program between the staff and the next summer's honor girls. She will undoubtedly be consulted about arranging the class schedules and contacting the instructors for the school. One of her responsibilities will be arranging the special events programs. This year for some of the special events the girls toured the following places: Riley children's hospital, Flanner house, Crossroads, the state mental hospital, aid to the blind and the Goodwill Industries.

4-H EXHIBITS:
All 4-H members who had exhibits at the Indiana state fair should plan to claim them at the county extension office.

PAST PRESIDENTS BANQUET:

Mrs. Bert Haley, chairman of the banquet, wants to remind all home demonstration past presidents that your reservation for the past presidents banquet and the \$1.50 should be mailed to Mrs. Ervin Stucky, 237 W. Washington Monroe, before October 5.

The banquet is being held at the Wesley hall, Methodist church in Geneva, Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. The committee also wishes the names of any deceased club members in the past year as they plan to hold a memorial service.

ONE DAY TRIP:

This is last call for all club presidents to mail their club's votes to the county extension office. We need to know how many club members want to take a trip to one of the following cities: Detroit, Indianapolis or Chicago. We hope to announce the exact details of the trip in the newspaper and on the radio on September 18.

The final reservations must be in the county extension office September 30.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE:

There will be a meeting of the travel committee September 17 at 1:30 in the county extension office.

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Hi Neighbors!

Good Soil Sample

Several thousand soil samples are taken by farmers each year. The soil test results — and the accompanying letter of recommendation — tell you several facts about your soil.

The tests show whether your soil needs (a) lime, (b) phosphorus, or (c) potassium. The recommendations tell you how much of each you should apply, when to apply it, and for which crops. Recommendations are also made for nitrogen fertilizer use. Special tests are made, when necessary, for excess lime and soluble salts. Information on how these affect your yields is included in the recommendation.

Now, a soil test can't be any more accurate than the sample from which it is made. Poor samples can result in tests which are misleading. This in turn can lead to inaccurate recommendations which can cause you to lose money through (1) low yields (2) using the wrong fertilizer, or (3) using fertilizer you don't need.

Good samples yield good tests and good recommendations which can make you money. Here are the steps to follow to get good soil samples on your farm.

1. See the county extension service, soil conservation service or ASCS service for information sheets, boxes and tools for taking samples.

2. Select the tools you need. A clean bucket, spade, and knife or a soil probe or auger.

3. Use your soils map, if available, to determine different soil conditions on your farm. Don't mix different soils. Here are some conditions which may result in different soil test results.

1. Past lime, fertilizer or manure treatment.

2. Low spots.

3. Slope and degree of erosion.

4. Cropping history.

5. Bottomland and upland differ.

6. Soil texture (sandy, loamy, or heavy).

7. Organic matter content.

Here are some places to avoid.

1. Unusual areas. If sampled, do them separately.

2. Turn rows, dead furrows, snow fences, stack bottoms, strips near trees, rocked roads, etc.

4. Depth of sample. Only 6 to 7 inches — the same as you plow.

5. What is a sample? A sample is soil from 10 to 20 places in the same soil area.

6. Using a spade. If you don't have a probe or auger, use a spade.

1. Dig a V-shaped hole 6-8 inches deep. Then take a half-inch slice from the smooth side.

2. Then trim side leaving a one inch strip and dump this strip into a clean bucket.

Repeat in 10 to 20 places for each soil sample.

7. Break clods—mix thoroughly.

8. Pour into carton.

9. Label the carton, with your name, address, and the sample number.

10. Sketch your field. Diagram it the way you sampled it. Be sure sampled areas are labeled the same as soil sample cartons.

11. Fill out information sheet.

The more information you give the better your recommendation will be.

12. Wrap samples securely and mail for testing.

This fall is the time to take samples, so commercial fertilizer can be purchased ahead of the planting season.

Don't wait until spring and guess!

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