



Fruit growers in the "Apple Pie Ridge" region will be eligible to receive payments for soil building and conservation as well as other farmers.



Growing tobacco, as shown in this Maryland field, requires a tremendous amount of plant food. The accompanying article presents the figures.

Interest Centers In Soil Building

THROUGHOUT the Virginia-Maryland-Delaware territory there is a growing interest in soil conservation and soil-building due to the stimulation of the new Agricultural Conservation program.

A. D. Cobb, acting director of Agricultural Extension at the University of Delaware has stated that different standards by which to measure the extent of soil conservation and soil building and the amounts of payments will be promptly established in that state.

The Delaware Extension Economist, R. O. Stelzer, has announced that fruit growers will be eligible to receive payments for soil building and soil conservation.

Questions Answered

To illustrate the operation and objectives of the new program, Director Cobb has listed several questions most frequently asked by Delaware farmers. In order of frequency and importance the questions and their proper answers are as follows:

1. What are the objectives of the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program?

To preserve and improve soil fertility; promote the economic use and conservation of land; reduce the exploitation, wasteful and unscientific use of soil resources; and, protect rivers and harbors against results of erosion.

2. How will the 1936 agricultural soil conservation and improvement be brought about?

By encouraging farmers to plant soil-building and soil-conserving crops and to adopt soil-building and soil-conserving practices.

3. How are consumers of agricultural products protected?

Goal Established

The act provides that due regard shall be given to the maintenance of a continuous and stable supply of agricultural commodities adequate to meet consumers' demands at prices fair to consumers and producers.

4. What is the goal of the program in 1936?

To increase soil-building and soil-conserving crops by about 30,000,000 acres or 30 per cent of the 1930 acreage of these crops.

5. Will the Secretary of Agriculture enter into contracts with producers under the Agricultural Conservation Program? No!

6. Where may producers obtain information about the program?

From county agricultural agents' offices and county and community committeemen.

In West Virginia, practices for which

farmers of the state may qualify for soil-building payments have been listed by the Agricultural Conservation Committee for West Virginia.

Practices Recommended

The committee has recommended five general practices for soil-building for which farmers may receive payments. These practices include seeding legumes, using green manure crops, planting forest trees, applying lime and superphosphate.

Three groups of legumes are recognized, for the seeding of each of which a different rate of payment will be made. Alfalfa is classified by itself for the first group and a payment of \$2 per acre provided for seeding in 1936. It is advised that the crop should be seeded before September 15 as the latest practical date.

Provisions For Legumes

Red and mammoth clover are included in the second group with a payment of \$1.50 per acre for seeding in 1936 prior to Oct. 31. In the third group, alsike, sweet, white, and crimson clover, vetch, and annual lespedeza are listed with a payment of \$1 per acre for seeding in 1936 prior to Oct. 31. Provision for legume mixtures is also made, the rate of payment depending on the kind and

VIRGINIA farm land needs lime because all agricultural crops absorb lime. The consistent cultivation of land depletes the natural lime deposits. In humid regions the loss of lime by leaching often amounts to as much as 1,000 pounds per acre per year.

Lime is applied to the soil because percentage of the different legumes in the mixture, either \$1 or \$1.50 per acre.

Green manure crops are classified in four groups with different rates of payments. Soy beans, sweet clover, and lespedeza are listed in the first group with a payment of \$1.50 per acre when seeded in 1936 and turned under or disked in before Oct. 31, provided they have at least two months' growth.

Sudan grass, millet, and sowed corn are listed in the fourth group with a payment of \$1 per acre, provided they are turned under or disked after at least two months' growth and before Oct. 31.

Reforestation Encouraged

For the planting of forest trees on crop or pasture land unsuited to cropping or grazing, a payment of \$5 per acre is provided.

For the application of ground limestone on crop or pasture land prior to Oct. 31, 1936, a payment of \$1.40 per ton, not to exceed \$2.80 per acre, will be made.

general farm crops are produced more economically where it is used. It has several effects on the physical condition of the soil. It causes heavy clay soil to become less sticky and easier to work. It improves the crumb structure and makes the soil more penetrable. As a result, the soil is better drained. Liming heavy soil makes cultivation easier. On sandy soil it has the opposite effect. It tends to hold the particles together, increase their water holding capacity.

The chemical changes in the soil caused by adding lime are many and complex. By reducing acidity, it prevents decreases in the availability of such important plant foods as nitrogen, calcium phosphates and magnesium.

Condition Determines Amount

The use of lime frequently increases the value of commercial fertilizers. Since fertilizer added to very acid soil does not give a proper return for the fertilizer dollar.

Ground limestone requires approximately two tons to equal one ton of burnt lime or 1.5 of hydrated lime. Magnesium limestone is a little higher in neutralizing power than calcium limestone.

The Extension Service Division, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, states that the chemical analysis and fineness of a liming material should always be considered, as well as the price, and hauling distance.

Soil Erosion Traced

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute is authority for the statement that: "We can not depend upon the natural supply of plant food in the soil because it has been depleted. Therefore, in economical production of crops on most soils it is essential to use some commercial fertilizers."

T. B. Hutcheson, head of the agronomy department, V. P. I., makes the statement, "The farmer is only a marketer of plant food."

This statement holds true whether you are a cattle raiser, dairy producer, truck farmer, fruit grower, or what have you.

Some idea as to the enormous amount of plant food required to produce a single crop is obtained from figures collected in the bright tobacco section where a three year rotation of tobacco, wheat and red top is followed. This rotation produces approximately 1,000 pounds of leaves, 25 bushels of wheat and 1.5 tons of hay, and it removes from the soil the equivalent of 120 pounds of nitrogen, 30 pounds of phosphoric acid and 140 pounds of potash.

Where Those Good Tomatoes Come From



With tomatoes growing more valuable each year as a cash crop on the Del-Mar-Va peninsula, community tomato plant beds are an integral part of the tomato culture industry. More than 50 such beds are now grown annually in Kent County, Maryland alone. On one of these beds was grown 1,000,000 vigorous tomato plants on an acre of former alfalfa ground one year.

Above are shown farmers getting their tomato plants from a community plant bed in Somerset County, in the heart of the Eastern Shore tomato area.