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Now Is Best Time  
For Soil Testing

North Carolina farmers continue to estimate much of the \$100 million they spend annually for fertilizer when they could have a sure thing through soil testing. It is estimated that only 10 per cent of the state's farmers take advantage of the N. C. Department of Agriculture's Soil Testing Service available to them in helping determine the fertilizer needs of their particular soils.

"The application of fertilizer is just a shot in the dark unless the soil on which it is being applied has been tested," remarks Dr. W. T. White, extension agronomist at North Carolina State College.

"The farmer should be deciding now how he's going to spend his fertilizer dollar for next year," White said. "The first step in determining this is soil testing."

White noted that North Carolina farmers spend about 5-8 per cent of their gross income on fertilizer. "Why should a farmer risk this amount of his income when it easily can be determined how much and what kind of fertilizer he needs?"

White said Tar Heel farmers spent more for fertilizer last year than in the year before even though crop acreage was down. "Chances are good that they will spend even more this year," he projected.

Farmers are being urged to take samples from all their fields now instead of waiting until the weather and condition of the land is a handicap.

"By taking soil samples now, the farmer can also avoid the usual January - February rush and he can learn the lime needs of his soil and apply it now," White suggested.

The need for soil testing is being presented to the state's farmers in various campaigns. An example of one of these is a program currently under way in Granville County.

County agricultural workers have sought and received the help of business, civic and fertilizer people in an effort to educate the farmers of Granville in the need and value of testing and proper application of fertilizer.

Some 34 collection stations are being set up in the county, posters and mail circulars are being put before the farmers and individuals are making personal contacts in the countywide effort to boost farm income through "Operation Soil Fertility."

**Civil Service**

Examinations have been announced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission for filling the following positions:

Student Trainee - Veterinarian, \$5,540 a year, for on-the-job training during summer vacations with the U. S. Department of Agriculture throughout the United States. Jobs are open to students in schools of veterinary medicine who expect to complete by June 30, 1963, 3 years of study in addition to 3 years of pre-veterinary work. Applications may be filed until January 15, 1963. Full details are in Announcement No. 293 B.

Occupational Therapist for filling positions paying from \$5,035 to \$6,575 a year. Jobs are located in St. Elizabeths Hospital and the Government of the District of Columbia in Washington, D. C., and in U. S. Public Health Service hospitals throughout the United States. Positions in the Veterans Administration will not be filled from this examination. Applications will be accepted until further notice. For further information, see Announcement No. 294 B.

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