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Phosphate Rock Crisis Is Real Says Agrico

The U.S. is facing a phosphate rock crisis that may be similar to the current "energy crisis." But the U. S. has alternate supplies of energy in its vast coal and shale reserves and its nuclear potential while the phosphate rock supply is irreplaceable.

Those statements were made to The Fertilizer Institute by Kenneth F. Lundberg, chairman of Agrico Chemical Company. Agrico owns some of the nation's largest phosphate rock reserves in Florida and North Carolina.

Phosphate rock is essentially the only source of the phosphate component of chemical fertilizers.

"Present phosphate supply capability in the world market faces a critical point in the mid-1980's. Some will predict that our U. S. phosphate industry will be on a downhill slide from that time on. However, I would remind the pessimists that the resourcefulness of our people and our system to rally to a need is well known.

"It is my judgement that the U. S. phosphate industry will continue to

be an important world supplier with increasing emphasis on upgraded products.

"That is exporting our phosphate rock in the form of upgraded phosphate products or wheat, soybeans and meat.

"We have that opportunity because the outlook for U. S. agriculture and agriculture throughout the world has never been brighter," Lundberg said.

Lundberg predicted that if U. S. producers are to hold their percentage position of world requirements, by 1985 mining capacity dedicated exclusively to export must be increased 12,000,000 tons in addition to 13,500,000 tons of additional rock capacity required for increased domestic demand.

\$7850 In Awards And Grants Won By Students And Colleges

Scholarships to students, and three financial grants for research, were awarded during the annual Turfgrass Conference held recently at The Pennsylvania State University.

The U. S. Golf Association turfgrass breeding research grant of \$2000 was received on behalf of the department of agronomy by Dr. James L. Starling, department head. This grant has been awarded annually since 1947.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America turfgrass research grant of \$1200 was received for the college of Agriculture by Dr. Herbert Cole, Jr.

Dr. Thomas L. Watschke accepted the Winter Course Alumni turfgrass research grant of \$1200 for the department of agronomy.

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council scholarships of \$500 each went to Donald S. Danyo of Pittsburgh and David P. Porter of Altoona.

Michael T. Hess of Hawley won the Albert Cooper Pocono Turfgrass Association scholarship of \$400. Twelve of the 13 winners are enrolled in the two year winter course in turfgrass management at Penn State.

The Finger Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association of American scholarship of \$300 went to David L. Allen of Clifton Spa, N. Y.

Scholarships of \$250 each were awarded to nine students by the Penncross Bentgrass Growers Association of Oregon. The winners were Winfrey P. Bunton of Louisville, Ky.; Dennis R. Cox of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Jeffery S. Edwards

of Altoona; John D. Foster of Crooksville, Ohio; Richard W. McConnell of New Castle; Lewis S. Morgan of Alliance, Ohio; David W. Ruley of Marion, Ind.; Dennis J. Salettel of Lyndhurst, Ohio; and Kim M. Sheffer of Dover.

Landscape Contractor Prexy Outlines Problem Areas

"Pre-qualification should apply to all landscape contractors whether they are working as prime or subcontractors," said Jerry J. Lankenau, president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America as he addressed the Roadside Development Meeting of the Highway Research Board Committee.

"The landscape contractor should be listed with the general contractor when the bid is submitted. Past performance should always be considered, and not only the financial position of the company."

Lankenau, summoned by the Highway Research Board Committee to provide a landscape contractor's perspective on governmental contracts involving highway work, was also critical of maintenance of work after the contractor has left the job.

"Too often we'll find that a project began with good specifications, had good supervision during the period of guarantee, but afterwards little attention was given the project. This greatly diminishes the results of our efforts and disallows much pride in our work," he said.

Other points of criticism which Lankenau had heard voiced recently by the ALCA membership were: "Lack of communication between the designing group and the inspecting engineer"; "Lack of contractual definition of substitution of material"; and "Selection of materials in geographic areas where the material does not exist, or in times when the material is not available."

According to the association president, a problem as yet unresolved in much of the country is unit pricing. It fails to take into account the economy of size. An unresolvable problem almost everywhere is public disclosure of unit prices.

"A contractor hungry for a job will, as a matter of course, review the published unit prices and shave off a percentage," he said. "He may lose money on the project, after which his unit prices are published, and the next guy pulls the same trick because he's hungry and he'll eventually lose more money than the first guy. In the long run, everyone loses."