

Report of the Advisory Council on Soils and Agronomy

by

J. L. Henry, Chairman

The Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Soils and Agronomy has committees active and operating for tillage, weed control, soil fertility and fertilizers, and special soil problems. The Council consists of the Chairman of the various committees plus representation from the Agricultural Engineering Council, a farmer member and the sixth Regional Soils and Crops Specialist from Saskatchewan Agriculture. We meet twice a year, in April and in November and the meetings are rotated throughout the province.

During 1979, we met in April in Rosetown and in November in Saskatoon.

During the November meeting a formal report to present to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee was prepared. The report for 1979 included research and development recommendations on tillage, evaluation of herbicide performance, efficiency of nitrogen application, herbicide and fertilizer mixes, soil salinity and sulfur deficiency. In addition, our report included nonresearch and development recommendations on weed control extension at the R.M. level, interprovincial pesticide analysis services laboratory, reconsideration of 2, 4, 5 - T, provincial support for weed control extensions and support for the Soil Testing Laboratory.

The Council, through the organizational efforts of Roy Button, organized a summer tour in northeast Saskatchewan in July of 1979 and was attended by approximately 70 agronomists.

The new structure of the Advisory Council on Soils and Agronomy is now in place and seems to be functioning smoothly. Basically, the work of preparing recommendations and noting research needs is done by the individual working committees. The Council merely puts together the work of the various committees to provide one unified voice for the presentation of material to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee and to better aid communication between the various disciplines in agronomy.