

**Table 4. Soil pH of surface inch after 5 years in no-till.**

Control	Nitrogen source and soil pH			
	Urea	N sol., 28%	Ammon. nitrate	Ammon. sulfate
6.7	5.9	5.8	5.5	4.7

Pennsylvania of an extremely acid layer, 1 to 2 inches deep, at the soil surface due to the application of N fertilizers, decomposition of crop residues and little disturbance of this accumulation zone by tillage, **Table 4**. This acid soil zone can depress the effectiveness of herbicides, lower the availability of plant nutrients, and damage roots of emerging seedlings. It is a good idea to monitor this surface soil pH by taking shallow soil samples, about 2 inches deep and to correct the problem by lime applications. The amount of lime needed to

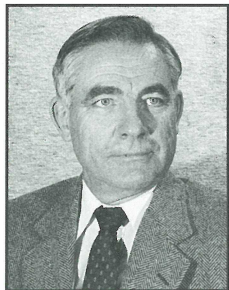
neutralize the accumulated acidity may be quite small. Be sure to indicate the shallow sampling depth when these samples are sent to the lab.

### Summary

Proper soil pH and profitable farming are a team. If soil pH is extremely acid, soil fertility suffers and farm profits will be lowered. Liming is a capital investment that affects crop production over several years and should be treated as such. Its total cost should not be charged against the first crop after liming.

Acid soil, infertility and low soil pH are problems that seem to be growing in magnitude. The solution to this trend requires increased emphasis on liming . . . and increased use of agricultural lime. ■

## Dr. W.K. Griffith Retires as PPI Eastern U.S. Program Director



**Dr. W.K. Griffith**

**DR. WILLIAM K. GRIFFITH** of Great Falls, VA, is retiring effective March 4 from his position as Eastern Director for the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). The announcement came from Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI.

"Dr. Griffith has been an effective, dedicated and highly respected leader in market development during his many years of service," Dr. Dibb stated. "He will certainly be missed both inside and outside of PPI. His many friends and colleagues join in wishing him continued success."

As Eastern Director, Dr. Griffith coordinated research and education programs for PPI in 14 states in the Eastern U.S. His tireless efforts encouraged greater understanding among university and USDA scientists, agribusiness, and others, helping build sound crop production systems.

A native of Henry, IL, Dr. Griffith earned his B.S. degree from Western Illinois University at Macomb, where he was also an All-American basketball player. He later received his M.S. in agronomy from the University of Illinois at Urbana, and the Ph.D. in agronomy from Purdue University at West Lafayette, IN.

Dr. Griffith served four years in the U.S. Navy as a weather specialist. He later worked as an assistant county agent in Arizona. He joined the staff of the American Potash Institute (now PPI) in 1960.

Through involvement in numerous organizations and associations, Dr. Griffith has contributed in many capacities. He has held several offices in the American Forage and Grassland Council, including a term as President. He received the Agronomic Service Award and the Industrial Agronomist Award of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). He was elected a Fellow of ASA and of the Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Griffith received a special award from the Virginia Small Grains Association in 1992, recognizing a decade of leadership in improved management for soft red winter wheat production. ■