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practices will be adopted. The fertilizer dealer probably has the most detailed input into the final plan. The role of SCS and Extension staff is to provide technical assistance, but they cannot possibly provide detailed site-specific management plans for each farm in their area. Reduction in force of both SCS and Extension will make this type of involvement even more difficult in the coming years.

Agronomic consultants will play a greater role in farming decisions in the future. These may be consultants working in conjunction with the fertilizer dealer, or they may be independent consultants. In either case, the consultant can provide assistance with soil testing and interpretation, with pest management decisions, and

a variety of other technical inputs. A local consultant can offer more individualized assistance than the SCS or Extension staff, because the consultant will have a smaller number of clients. The farmer's own experience and expertise will help determine the role for the consultants he hires.

### Summary

Planning fertility management for conservation tillage requires a systematic approach. Changing tillage changes the environment in which roots will grow and in which soil nutrient reactions take place.

A team of local support people should be involved in working out the details of a conservation/fertility management plan, taking advantage of the expertise and experience available to develop a program that is agronomically sound, economically efficient, and environmentally beneficial. ■

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## "Roots of Plant Nutrition" Conference Set for July 8-10, 1992

**THE** Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR) will host a research conference, "Roots of Plant Nutrition," July 8-10, 1992 at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center in Champaign, IL.

The conference will address the physical, biological, chemical, and environmental considerations relating to root growth and plant nutrition. It will be a unique opportunity for basic researchers to share their work with those who apply the technology in the field. Ample time is allowed for open discussion of what is known about the crop rhizosphere and the questions that remain to be answered.

Invited papers will be presented by leading researchers in these subject areas. Volunteer poster papers from other researchers and graduate students will be accepted for either indoor displays and presentations or field demonstrations. Commercial displays will feature latest technology in equipment for root research, soil sampling, soil and plant analysis, field

monitoring, and other related work. A published proceedings will be available at the conference.

The conference is oriented toward university (teaching, research, extension) and industry agronomists, crop consultants, SCS and Extension Service field staff, and others interested in the application of agronomic technology to the field. Research presentations will emphasize the practical application of the latest knowledge of crop root systems and their environment. Graduate students are encouraged to present poster papers on their research in progress on topics related to roots and plant nutrition.

Registration materials can be obtained from the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI), 2805 Claflin Road, Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502, (913) 776-0273. For further information, contact Dr. Harold Reetz, Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI), R.R. #2, Box 13, Monticello, IL 61856, phone/FAX (217) 762-2074 or the PPI Manhattan, KS office. ■