

This new information needs to be transferred to plant breeders and crop management specialists. To date, their primary emphasis has been on plants per square foot.

### **Summary**

This research clearly shows that alfalfa properly fertilized with P and K can be maintained economically for long periods of time. The data also show that returns will offset herbicide applications when the alfalfa stands become thin and less competitive. With good P and K fertility, minimal plant density is between 2 and 3 plants per square foot. As farmers look for

long-term sustainable programs, well-managed alfalfa can contribute a quality forage to the system. However, the economics of fertilization regimes will be a critical management consideration. Top-dressing is vital to persistence. The plow-down treatments help out early in the life of the stand, but do not sustain productivity.

Future assessments of stand condition are likely to place more emphasis on shoots per square foot than on plants per square foot. Not only does K help plants persist, but it promotes shoot growth of remaining plants if a neighboring plant dies, thus maintaining yield potential. ■

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## **“Roots of Plant Nutrition” Conference Proceedings Available from PPI**

**PROCEEDINGS** of the “Roots of Plant Nutrition” Conference are available from the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). The conference, which took place July 8 to 10 in Champaign, IL, was organized by PPI and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). Co-sponsors included USDA/ARS, Agriculture Canada/Research Branch, USDA/ARS National Soil Tilth Lab, National Fertilizer Environmental Research Center/TVA, and University of Illinois Department of Agronomy.

The Proceedings includes 43 papers presented at the conference, with a variety of topics including “Effect of Nutrients on Root Growth and Ion Uptake,” “Tillage and Compaction Effects on Root Distribution,” and “Variable Rate Application Systems.”

Copies of the Proceedings cost \$15.00 each. Send payment to: PPI/FAR Roots Conference, Potash & Phosphate Institute, 2805 Claflin Road, Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. ■

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## **Potash & Phosphate Institute and Foundation for Agronomic Research Announce New Headquarters Location**

**THE HEADQUARTERS** offices of the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR) are moving in August of 1992.

The new office location will be 655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092-2821. Beginning August 24, the new telephone number will be (404) 447-0335 and the fax number will be (404) 448-0439. Since 1979, the offices have been located at 2801 Buford Highway, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329.

“The new location should provide a more efficient facility for the functions of our agronomic research and education programs,” noted Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI. “We have planned the move to minimize the disruption of services to PPI members, FAR contributors, and others.”

Normal operations of PPI and FAR are expected to resume by September 1. ■