

DA Reports

Plastic Covers Save More Than Shows

Plastic covers that seal silos reduce feed losses much more than indicated by the spoilage layers in silos with those in unsealed bunkers, a USDA report issued this week shows. More significant—but less obvious—the reduction, made possible by use of plastic covers, in silage losses of a comparable unsealed bunker.

Visable spoilage in sealed and unsealed bunkers actually accounted for about one-seventh the total dry feed loss in a 2-year experiment led by ARS dairy husbandman C. H. Gordon and agricultural engineer J. R. McCalmont. The visible spoilage layer never exceeded 3 inches in thickness, even in the unsealed bunker.

only 19.1 percent in the sealed one.

In the unsealed bunker the following year, silage made of a mixture of orchardgrass and ladino clover lost 46.3 percent of its dry matter. Dry matter loss in the sealed bunker was 21.3 percent.

Orchardgrass ensiled in the uncovered bunker lost 37.1 percent of its dry matter, compared to a loss of

Gordon and McCalmont figure the seal saved about 10 pounds of dry matter per square foot of silo surface.

This much dry silage is normally worth at least 15 cents. A polyethylene seal 4 millimeters thick costs only about two cents per square foot.

On this basis, the cover is worth the money, even if it's used only one season. A more durable experimental material, neoprene-coated nylon that's been tested six years, hasn't been assigned a yearly cost because it's still in good condition.

Had visible spoilage been the only criterion for judging the value of the seals, however, the covers would not have appeared economical.

Much of the higher seepage loss from the uncovered bunker was due to moisture from rain and snow filtering through the silage. Precipitation leached nutrients out.

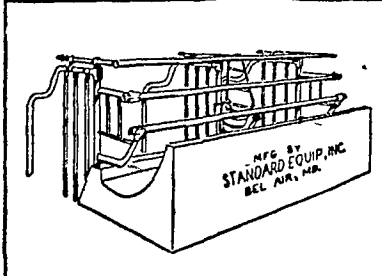
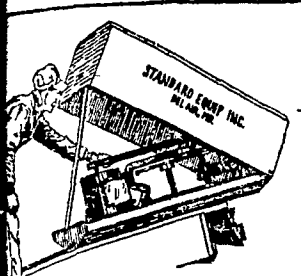
On the other hand, seepage measurements from the sealed bunker revealed that silage juices accounted for the only moisture loss.

The sealed bunker saved more feed and produced better silage. Feed from the sealed bunker was preferred by dairy cattle. They produced more milk and lost less weight than cattle fed from the unsealed bunker.

Seals used in the study were anchored to the surface of the silage by covering with 3 inches of sawdust.

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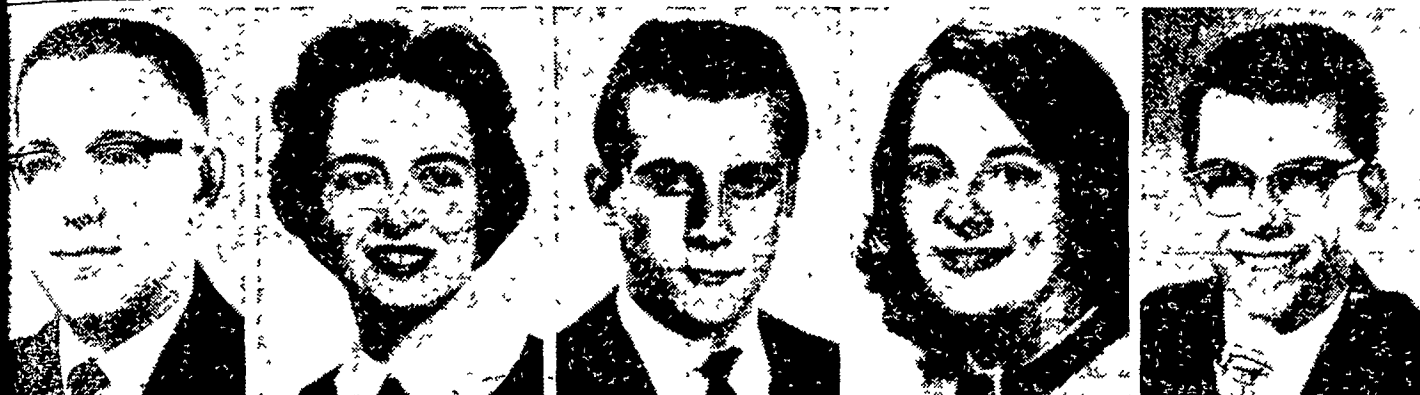
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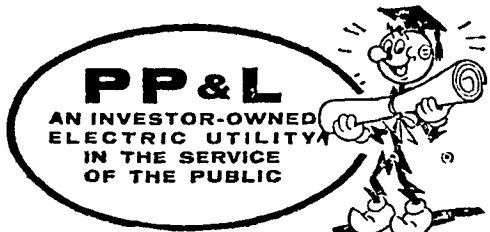
of 1961 PP&L Scholarships

The ten outstanding high school seniors pictured above have been selected from 400 highly qualified applicants as the 1961 winners of Pennsylvania Power & Light Company scholarships.

PP&L is proud to help further the education of such able young people. More than ever, our country's continued growth, and even its very existence,

depends in large measure on the knowledge and understanding of our young people and their ability to meet fully the challenges ahead. We also extend our sincere congratulations to the teachers of Central Eastern Pennsylvania who have contributed to the education of these young people, for the high caliber of this year's applicants is clear evidence of a teaching job well done.

Students interested in competing for PP&L scholarships may secure a preview of the program by asking, at our nearest office, for a copy of this year's brochure. A new edition, giving details on next year's competition, will be available at Central Eastern Pennsylvania high schools early this fall.



● Lancaster Yards

(From page 3)
520 last week. Trading moderately active Spring lambs 1.00 lower. Choice & Prime 50-80 lb slaughter lambs 21.50-23.00, Good & Choice 19.00-21.50. A hundred head string Choice 50 lb feeder lambs 15.00

● Vintage

(From Page 2)
grade Few lots 232-245 lbs. 2-3 18-18.60. Two lots No 3 271-280 lbs. 15.85-16.25.
SHEEP: 98. Spring slaughter lambs 1.00 lower. Good and choice 50-90 lb. spring slaughter lambs 19-21.

● Chicago Yards

(From page 2)
below and those weighing under 1150 lb. at minimum decline. Slaughter heifers 50-100 lower, utility and commercial cows weak to 50 lower, other cows steady to 25 higher, other classes unchanged.
Several loads prime 1200-1330 lb. steers 25.50-26.00 Monday with load 1330 lbs. 26.00 but only three loads of prime 1250-1325 lbs reached 25.25 Wednesday Bulk prime and mixed choice and prime 1050-1400 lb. steers 23.00-25.25. Bulk choice 900-1400 lbs. 22.00-23.50 but largely 23.00 down with many average to high choice 1050-1350 lbs. 22.25-22.75 at the close. Standard 18.00-20.00 late with load mixed standard & good 1200 lb. 20.25.
Few mixed choice & prime heifers 22.50-23.00. Late bulk choice heifers 21.75-22.50.
Commercial cows 15.75-17.50 at the close, utility and commercial bulls 17.50-20.50. Good and choice vealers 25-30.
Several loads and small lots good and choice 750-1025 lb feeding steers 22.00-23.00, load medium 675 lb. stock steers 21.25

PASTURE COWS CAREFULLY

Dairymen like to see lush pastures come along for their dairy cows, but Joe Taylor, Penn State extension dairy specialist, sounds a warning: he change from winter feeding can cause mastitis. He advises feeding some hay and grain before cows go out to pasture each day early in the season.

Weyhill Chief Mistress a registered Holstein sow owned by Vernon R. Umble, Atglen, produced 17,732 lbs of milk and 667 lbs butterfat in 348 days on twice daily milking as a 6-year-old.