

Ag Wastes Are Major Resource, Chemist Says

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 13, 1971—13

Treating agricultural wastes as a major resource rather than as a necessary evil may hasten the recycling of those materials and aid in the cleansing of the environment, a U.S. Department of Agriculture soil chemist said this week.

Speaking at the Cornell Agriculture Waste Management Conference in Syracuse, N.Y., Dr. Walker R. Heald of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said that getting rid of agricultural wastes posed no problem in the past because they were simply dumped on the land or in the water without any real consequence to or concern for the environment.

processing industry, the advance of urbanization which diminishes the amounts of land and water once used for disposal, and people demanding a cleaner environment all have resulted in agricultural waste becoming a major problem." Dr. Heald said "The very large amounts of animal and crop wastes are still a pressing problem, but we are beginning to find that much of these materials can be economically used as partial replacement of inorganic fertilizers in the production of crops, as animal and poultry feed ingredients, and as raw materials for industry in the manufacture

of various products and chemicals," he said.

Dr. Heald, a soil chemist at the ARS Northeast Watershed Research Center, University Park, Pa., added that "wastes originating from fruit and vegetable processing, textile mill operations, paper manufacturing, wood and wood product production, slaughtering and animal processing, and many other industries present major problems because of the large amounts of water involved"

"Technology to recycle and use agricultural wastes," he concluded, "is being rigorously investigated both from the engineering and scientific standpoint for industry in the manufacture

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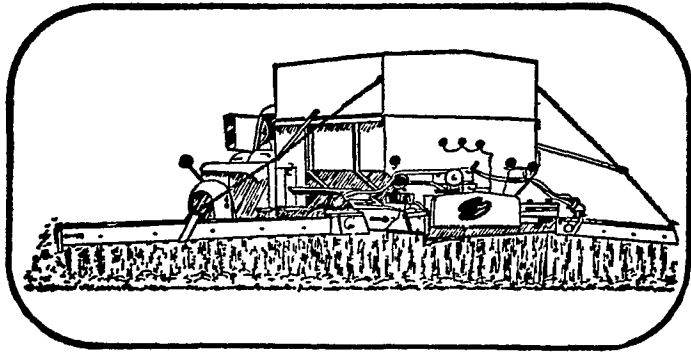
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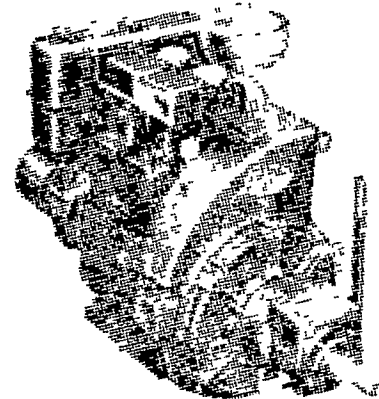
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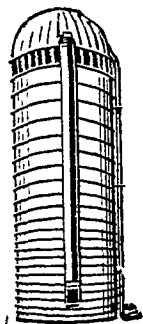
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