

Zoning Cited As Means of Manure Control

Zoning, including provision for adequate land for manure and runoff disposal, appears to be one of the best solutions to the feed-lot pollution problem, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil scientist said recently.

"Manure can be disposed of and used as a resource if only a

small portion of the land needed to produce the feed is available for manure disposal," Dr. Frank G. Viets Jr told the National Symposium on Animal Waste Management at Warrenton, Va.

Dr. Viets, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, was among 200 participants in the symposium co-sponsored by

USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council of State Governments, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

Crowding one million persons on 320 acres would about duplicate, in terms of waste, the number of cattle on many feedlots in the midwestern and western States, Dr. Viets said.

"Our steadily increasing demands for well-finished beef and the apparent profitability of large integrated feeding and slaughtering operations indicate that feedlots will grow larger and not smaller," he added.

Cattle feeding is moving from a small farm enterprise toward an agricultural industry and is concentrating waste in an unprecedented amount, he said.

"While most large operators are making a valiant effort to

comply with water and air pollution regulations, the scale of their operations has expanded faster than the knowledge that could help them" Dr. Viets said.

The soil scientists said that agricultural engineers have a challenge to design facilities that minimize runoff or dispose of it economically and beneficially.

"Underground water pollution appears to be mostly a local phenomenon. Wide-spread contamination of aquifers--underground natural water storage basins--does not appear probable," he said.

"Most of the unsolved problems lie in the air pollution area. The significance of increased levels of ammonia in the air surrounding crops and lakes needs further study. Offensive odors and their control still await through application of microbiological and chemical research," Dr. Viets concluded.

Poultry Programs Okayed

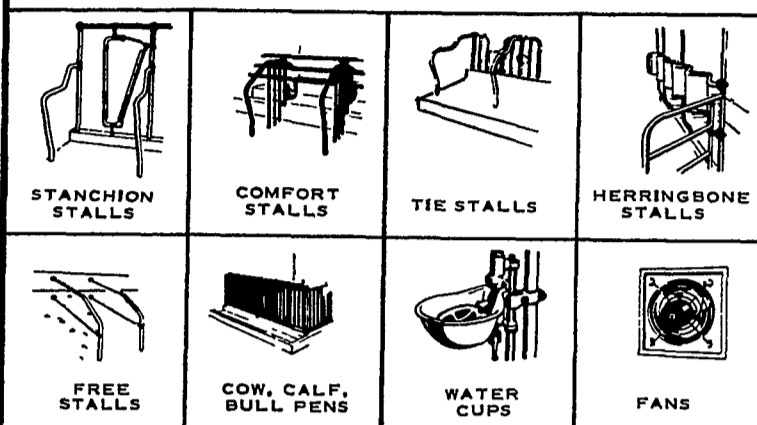
The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently certified the Delaware, Maryland and Ohio poultry inspection programs equal to the Federal one, under provisions of the Wholesome Poultry Products Act.

As a result, each state now has full responsibility for inspecting poultry slaughter and processing plants doing business wholly within its boundaries.

Shallow-Rooted Plants Need Water

Plants with shallow roots - such as azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel, and flowering dogwood need frequent waterings. And it's a good idea to continue watering these plants on a regular basis until the ground freezes this fall, says J. Robert Nuss, Penn State Extension ornamental horticulture specialist.

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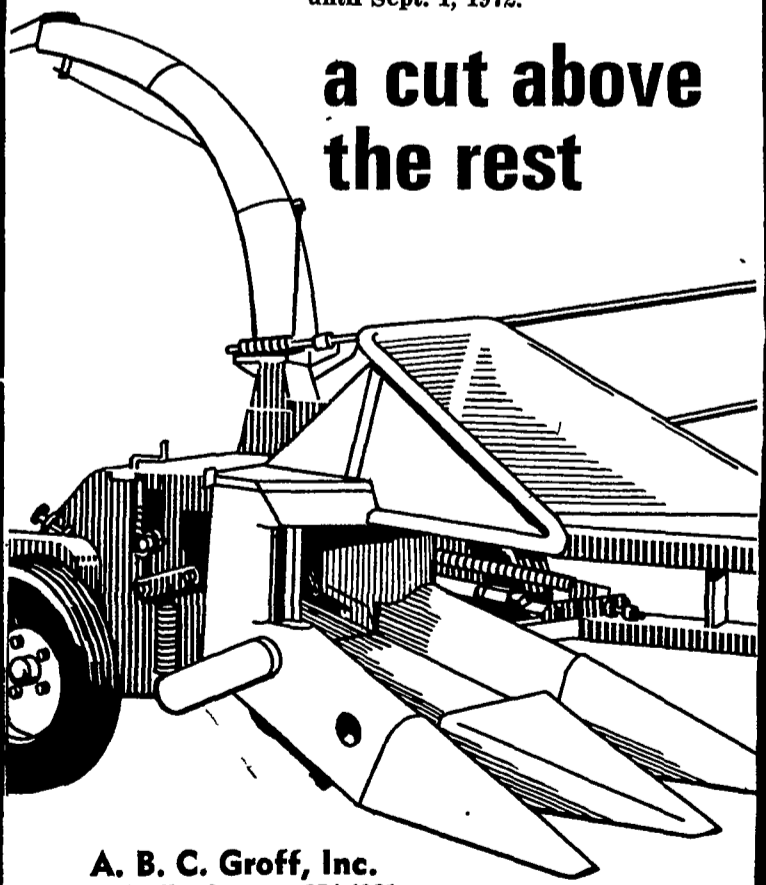
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