

Chemical to Aid High Moisture Shelled Corn Storage

A new method of storing corn is being demonstrated on several Lancaster County farms.

The new technique involves use of a chemical to retard rots and molds so that shelled corn can be stored in bins as high moisture corn.

While present methods of storing shelled corn in bins calls for drying the corn to the 15 per cent or less moisture level, the new chemical makes it possible to store the corn at the 25 to 30 per cent moisture level, according to Arnold Lueck, associate Lancaster County ag agent.

The new technique involves covering the corn with a chemical mixture involving propionic and acetic acids. The liquid preservative is sprayed on the corn by special equipment at the storage area.

While the chemical is adaptable to sorghum, wheat, oats and barley, it is being demonstrated on about half a dozen local farms only on corn.

Actually, existence of the new storing technique has been widely reported previously in farm publications, but the chemical and equipment to apply it is just beginning to become widely available.

The demonstrations in the County will involve up to about 12,000 bushels. By observing the results through the next several months, Lueck said it will be a good trial of "how it works."

The technique involves use of the acids to control typical storage rots and molds. The solution also is supposed to maintain the shelled corn at the same moisture level through the winter as when it was stored.

In effect, the solution enables the storing of the corn for long periods of time in bulk form while

preserving it in the condition in which it was harvested.

Some advantages cited for the acid include: elimination of the need for drying the corn; reduction of field losses by speeding up harvesting, elimination of losses from rotting

and energy loss from heating, and much more flexible storage

Joseph H. McGahen, Penn State Extension agronomist, reported recently that all classes of livestock will readily consume corn treated by the new storage chemical.

Co-Op Month Declared

Dr. James E. Honan, general manager of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, Philadelphia, announced recently that the 1971 nationwide Cooperative Month Observance will be held in October. Theme of the observance will be "Cooperatives Care."

"This year's theme," said Dr. Honan, "traces back to the basic reason why co-operatives exist, and that is to serve people. Cooperatives have a special sense of mission to help people that use their services, as long as it's in the public interest."

Earlier this month Governor Milton Shapp signed a Commonwealth Proclamation which declared that October be officially observed as Co-Op Month. In the proclamation the Governor urges all citizens "to give recognition to the constructive and responsible role of cooperatives in the economic progress of this state."

During the month, cooperative groups at the local, state, and national level will be counting the many ways Cooperatives Care. Attention will focus on cooperatives' concern for people, a better living for their members, the total environment, youth, their communities, and America.

Honan noted that Co-Op Month this year will focus on how cooperatives have kept tuned to new demands and accelerating changes in these swift-moving times.

Dr. Honan said that Inter-State will observe Co-Op Month by youth educational activities and Young Cooperator educational programs throughout the month informing the "now" generation - Why Cooperatives?

Cooperative Month has been observed on a national basis since 1964. Before that, midwest states, starting in 1947, held annual observances to commemorate cooperative achievements and contributions to the American way of life.

As a climax to Co-Op Month celebrations across the state, the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives will hold their annual meeting of members October 27 & 28 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

Activities for Co-Op Month are coordinated by the National Advisory Committee on Cooperatives to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Chairman of the committee this year is Dr. Vernon E. Schneider, President, American Institute of Cooperation, Washington, D.C.

Keep Ewes Worm-Free

Healthy worm-free ewe flocks have healthy, profitable lamb crops, says Max Smith, Lancaster County ag agent.

Internal parasites are the chief reason why Pennsylvania ewe flocks fail to have good lamb crops. As ewes leave permanent pastures in late fall for the winter season, they usually carry large burdens of bloodsucking worms.

New worm medicines available now in drench or feed-pellet form may be administered to ewes without danger to the unborn lambs.

The worms can be eliminated and danger of reinfection removed if feed and water are protected from manure contamination during the winter season.

McGahen said the treated corn can be stored in "any dry location but if storage is on ground or concrete slab surface, it should be covered with plastic. Galvanized bins would have to be lined with plastic as the acid is corrosive to metal."

McGahen said the chemical can be considered an "alternative to drying" with costs comparable with drying.

The agronomist also said the demonstrations in Lancaster County "provide us with an excellent opportunity observe this method of grain preservation."

Lueck indicated that the main emphasis on the farms in which the method is being tried is on getting some of the corn in storage.

The real test and the time to evaluate the technique will be this winter after the corn has set several months under the treatment, he indicated.

Chester Co. Clothing Meetings Set

Clothing construction courses on basic sewing skills, intermediate skills, advanced skills and machine tailoring have been set up in Chester County by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The courses will begin the last week in October and meet weekly for six weeks with the exception of the Advanced Skills class which will be five weeks in length. The classes will meet in various locations throughout the county.

One meeting special interest workshops have also been

planned on sewing knits, fake furs, and lingerie.

The workshops on sewing lingerie will be held on October 26 and 27 at London Grove Meeting and East Whiteland Presbyterian Church respectively.

The knit workshops are scheduled for November 9 and 10 at Thorndale Methodist Church and St. Matthews Methodist Church, Valley Forge.

Fake Furs will be the topic for meetings on November 18 and 23 at First United Presbyterian Church of Paoli and Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown.

All workshops will meet from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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