

REAP Help on Waste Disposal

(Continued from Page 14)

under the tremendous pressures exerted by many tons of waste.

Many systems of this type being built now are with concrete block with steel rods and concrete through the holes in the blocks. These do not meet REAP specifications and some of these systems have collapsed on local farms, Bass said.

Conservation Also Needed

There's another string attached to REAP funding of the storage pits. Funds will be awarded only to farmers who "have adequate land treatment."

Adequate land treatment means "a complete conservation

applied to the land, including strip cropping and terraces where needed." This applies to those portions of the farm on which the manure will be spread.

The reason for the requirement for the use of these conservation practices, Bass explained, is "the feeling there's no reason to finance a pit if the farmer is going to allow the manure to run into the water system after it is spread."

While keeping the manure off the frozen ground during the winter eliminates some runoff problems, when the manure is spread in the spring, it is spread in much large quantities than



What appears to be simply a concrete feedlot on the Weidler Grube farm is actually a little more. Underneath is a 30-foot

diameter storage pit for animal waste. It's designed to hold these wastes up to 100 days for Grube's scale of operation.

under the present daily spreading system. If erosion and heavy runoff occur during or shortly after spreading under the new system, the pollution potential is still great on land without conservation practices, according to Bass.

But experience with local farms which have been properly treated with conservation measure, including waterways and terraces, has shown that there is very little runoff of soil and other solids, Bass explained.

The terraces in particular catch the water, slow its movement, allowing more of the water to be retained by the land and preventing erosion.

Bass conceded the large pit

system poses one problem, an odor problem. While the problems doesn't exist as many days of the year, when spreading does occur, the problem is more acute.

But care in picking the right kind of weather to minimize odors and even plowing down soon after spreading are among techniques which can minimize the problem, he said.

He added that he thinks farmers will have an easier time placating urban neighbors on the odor problem if the neighbors know the problem is going to exist only for short period and infrequently.

(Editor's note: To eliminate the odor problem, which is

particularly severe with large poultry operations Penn State University poultry scientists have made considerable progress on developing a drying system to make the poultry manure both much lighter in weight and odorless. Work is now underway to reduce the cost of the process and to develop market for the finished product in order to offset the drying costs.

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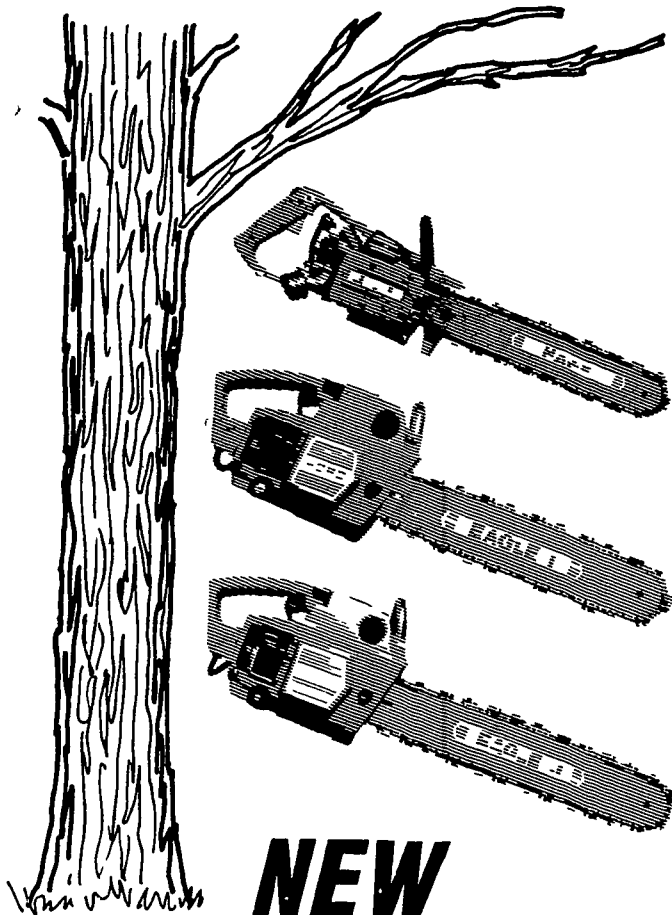
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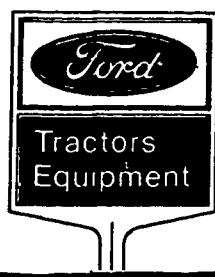
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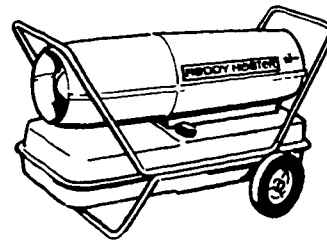
4-H Calendar

Monday, December 13
7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Ayrshire, Jersey, Brown Swiss 4-H Club Christmas party, home of Ken Eshleman, Rheems.

Wednesday, December 15
8 p.m. — Lancaster County 4-H Roller Skating party, Rocky Springs Park.

Thursday, December 16
7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Red Rose Baby Beef and Lamb Club meeting, Farm and Home Center.

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