

Is It Best Way to Spend Limited Funds? Economist Says:

Cost of Pollution Control Must Be Weighed With Other Needs

Getting rid of pollution in one respect often creates other undesirable effects, says Dr.

ABS Appoints Carter

Harland E. Carter has been appointed District Sales Coordinator, according to an announcement by Willard A. Krueger, vice president of Marketing for American Breeders Service, Inc., a subsidiary of W. R. Grace & Co. Carter's territory is composed of northcentral Pennsylvania and he will be assisting ABS District Sales Manager, William Berg of Muncy, Pa., in the business developments in this area.

Donald J. Epp, Pennsylvania State University agricultural economist.

Dr. Epp finds this "trade-off" between alternatives may exist in four aspects—a trade-off between environmental quality and other needs, a trade-off between geographical areas, a trade-off within the various parts of the environment, and a trade-off in degrees of environmental cleanliness.

Just as a family must sometimes choose between alternatives, society must make choices in the kinds of pollution it accepts, he stated recently.

"I think we will face rather quickly the trade-off between environmental quality and other

needs," he declared at the annual meeting of the Cooperative Extension Service at Penn State. As an example, he described a

Pennsylvania city under orders to upgrade its sewage treatment facilities so that a stream now contaminated will meet stan-

Nursery Meeting Set

A Southeast Pennsylvania Nursery meeting will be held Thursday, January 6, at the Holiday Inn, Goddard Boulevard, King of Prussia.

The program begins at 1:30 p.m. with a welcome from James K. Rathmell Jr.

Speakers and their topics will include: "Dogwoods," Robert MacDonald, director of Tyler Arboretum, "Green Carpets" by Dr. J.R. Nuss, Penn State

University Extension ornamental horticulturist, "Systemic Fungicides" by Professor L. P. Nichols, Penn State Extension plant pathologist, "Fertilizing Ornamentals, Fact or Fancy," Dr. Nuss, "Plants and the Computer" by MacDonald, and "English Nurseries" by Rathmell.

Following the meal at 6 p.m., Rathmell will speak on "European Nurseries."

dards for swimming and other contact water sports. At hearings involving the situation, a consultant testified that the city could build 10 olympic-size swimming pools annually for the cost of improving water treatment facilities.

Citizens of this and similar communities will ask the question, "How do we get the most benefit from spending the money?" Dr. Epp pointed out. In such cases, however, the people are not allowed a choice since standards indicate the stream must be cleaned up.

"As we at Penn State continue working on environmental problems, we must make known the alternative ways of getting whatever benefits people want from the environment. These are as important as knowledge of the standards for environmental quality," he affirmed.

Dr. Epp described a Federal government estimate of \$105.2 billion needed over the next 6 years to clean up the environment thoroughly. This amounts to about \$17.5 billion annually.

People will ask whether this is the best way to spend the money. They may point out that this money could double expenditures of all state and local governments for police protection, correctional institutions, and public assistance, he observed.

The \$17.5 billion is about two-thirds of what the nation spends annually for all public elementary and secondary schools. A two-third increase in financing for school systems might improve communities substantially. Cleaning up streams could also improve communities. The people must decide which expenditure will be made.

The "trade-off" in geographical areas could prove equally serious for some Pennsylvania industries, he claimed. Certain industries may be compelled to move elsewhere because of high costs required to meet strict environmental standards. Increased standards for one stream receiving sewage effluent from a paper mill will raise production costs for sewage treatment by \$17.80 per ton of product. This is almost six times the current cost for sewage treatment.

Unless the company has other advantages for remaining, they will most likely move to another state, Dr. Epp predicted. Is the resulting improvement in environmental quality worth the loss of jobs, he asked. This is a "trade-off" that should be considered.

"Alternatives" between different parts of the environment were also discussed. Cleaning up raw sewage from a stream by installing a sewage treatment plant and then burning the resulting sludge takes "dirt" out of the water and puts it in the air.

Burning of refuse instead of using land fill is another example of "trade-off" from soil and water pollution to air pollution.

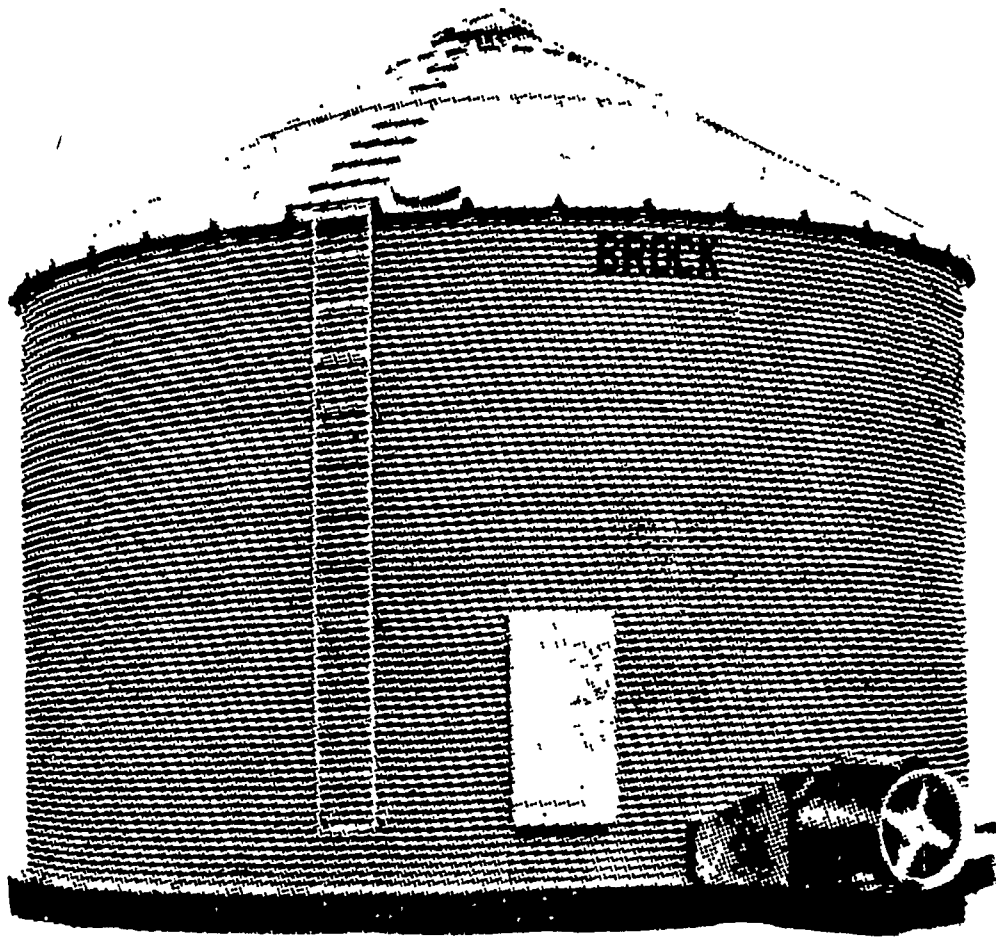
Dr. Epp said a fourth "trade-off" exists in degree or extent of pollution. He claimed the natural environment consists of various degrees of cleanliness. Pollution is not strictly a man-made activity and the natural state environment is not absolutely clean.

It is not necessarily true that distilled water must run in every stream before the natural environment is cared for properly, he affirmed. Man can use the environment to dispose of many waste products and the environment will clean it up—provided the system is not overloaded.

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