

Manure Handling for Maximum Fertilizer Yield Is Discussed Here

Farmers need to manage manure properly in order to get top fertilizer values from it, as well as to avoid problems with pollution, emphasized W. Wayne Hinish, Penn State Extension agronomist, at the Farm and Home Center Dairy Day program Tuesday.

Hinish explained that a 1,200 pound dairy cow produces about 100 pounds of manure daily or some 18 tons per year. The manure from one cow, if properly handled, will provide the nutrients needed by one acre of corn, Hinish said.

Hinish described the nutrient content of cow manure as about 10 pounds of nitrogen, three

pounds of phosphorus and 10 pounds of potassium per ton. At today's market prices for these nutrients, their value is about \$1.80 per ton, he said.

But he stated that nearly half of the fertilizer value is in the urine part of the waste and if this is allowed to run off, it results in loss of half of the fertilizer value, as well as creating an environmental pollution problem.

He also described the nutrients in the dry matter as being mostly "soluble" and subject to run-off if by rain.

The result, he explained, is that nearly all the nutrient value of the manure can be lost if it is handled improperly.

The most economical systems which properly handle the manure generally are stacking and liquid storage with a minimum exposure to air and rainfall.

He described the liquid systems as being both extremely desirable and costly. He also pointed out that subsurface application or plowing down minimizes both run-off and odors which can result from liquid manure.

If stacking is used, it should be in an enclosure impervious to run-off and preferably should have a roof, he said. He noted that a 90-day storage capacity is generally considered adequate, although many systems have a

capacity up to 180 days.

Spring application is much better than fall application for top results. The manure should be used on corn and similar crops which need high nitrogen rather than crops such as alfalfa which don't need high nitrogen levels, he said.

Hinish emphasized that dramatic changes are underway

regarding farm wastes because of changing management practices which stress heavier stocking on farms, closer relationships between farms and urban areas, higher proportion of manure produced in barns rather than fields, growing scarcity of bedding materials, heavy emphasis on daily hauling and the new types of handling systems.

Diversion of Ag Research Funds Is Upheld

Attorney General J. Shane Creamer recently reaffirmed an earlier opinion to Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale that harness racing funds may be used for agricultural research projects, reports the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

McHale has come under fire in recent weeks for spending Pennsylvania Fair Fund money, derived from harness racing, for a demonstration health project in Coudersport. Three-fourths of the total project is being federally funded.

Critics have charged that the multi-phasic screening rural health project should be handled by the Pennsylvania Health and Welfare Departments. However, Health Secretary Dr. J. Finton Speller has backed the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Rural Affairs and Marketing Services in undertaking the project.

In an opinion January 4, Creamer informed McHale that Section 16 of the Harness Racing Act of 1959 could be interpreted as providing that "certain

payments may be made from the Pennsylvania Fair Fund for agricultural projects, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, from the recommendations submitted by a committee appointed by him."

Essentially, Creamer advised McHale that the terms "rural" and "agricultural" are "completely interlocked and interwoven" so that rural matters could fall under the province of the Agriculture Department.

In his communication to McHale, Creamer affirmed that specifically matters of rural health programs and unemployment projects "come within the meaning of 'agricultural research projects' as the legislature intended when it enacted Section 16 of the Harness Racing Act."

Creamer further elaborated that the "phrase 'agricultural research projects' has thus been broadened by the Secretary and the committee beyond the narrow scope of plants and crops to include projects directly relating to rural people to whom agriculture is a way of life."

Creamer concluded that the program, "which emphasizes the needs of the people living in rural Pennsylvania—including such diverse areas as environmental resources, housing, rural development, public service employment, health care delivery and transportation systems — does constitute 'agricultural research' within the meaning of the Harness Racing Act."

"I knew our concern for rural Pennsylvanians was lawful," said McHale. "And I'm certain our demonstration health project will do some good."

Saint's Symbol

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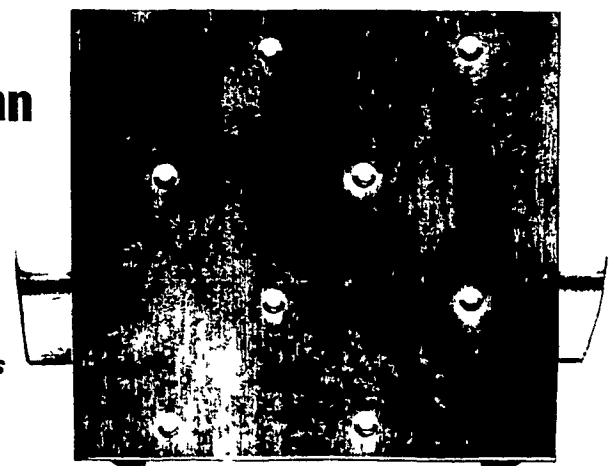
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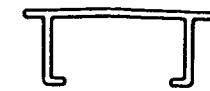
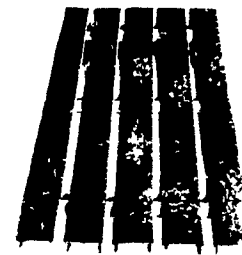
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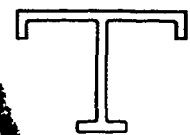
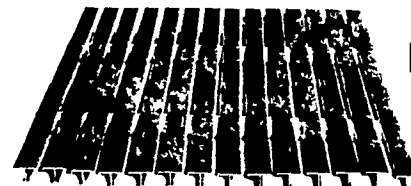
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