

Pollution Meetings Held By Conservation District

There have been two educational meetings held by the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District in an effort to acquaint citizens with pollution and its abatement, the Clean Streams Law, and suggestions as to what persons can do to reduce or prevent pollution.

The two meetings, one at Elizabethtown and one at Mastersonville, were alike in their presentation to area citizenry.

Henry Hackman, executive secretary of the Soil and Water Conservation District, chaired the meetings.

Hackman discussed the Clean Streams law and how it relates to farmers. In presentation, Hackman read from the Clean Streams Law:

"If the Board (Sanitary Water

Board, a subsidiary of Environmental Resources, headed by Dr. Goddard) finds that the pollution or danger of pollution results from an Act of God in the form of sediment from land for which a complete conservation plan has been developed by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service (USDA) and the plan has been fully implemented and maintained, the landowner shall be excluded from prosecution."

The Act also states that erosion is a form of pollution.

Hackman also discussed other phases of the law pertaining to the Clean Streams Law. It was pointed out that the law can penalize a farmer if proper practices are not used.

Abner Houseknecht, Lancaster

County Soil Conservation technician, discussed the value of contour strips alternating with cultivated and uncultivated crops. He presented a series of slides showing the function of terraces and sod waterways and how they are built.

Orval Bass, Lancaster County conservationist, discussed waste products of the farm and pits being used. Slides depicted the size of pits, cost, and how to proceed to meet the standards to get cost-sharing.

Bass also explained the

problems of erosion and urbanization. Promoters who buy acreages to develop into housing projects often leave the land stripped.

A discussion period followed, indicating much interest aroused in those persons attending.

New Standards for Anhydrous Ammonia

Coinciding with USDA's "Safe Use of Agricultural Chemicals" campaign, a new publication which outlines the new Federal standards for the safe storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia will be available to the public.

J. Phil Campbell, Under-Secretary of Agriculture, says the new leaflet is called "Safe Use of Anhydrous Ammonia Fertilizer," and reflects the standards issued under the important provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The publication is offered jointly by the Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is available at county USDA offices and other agencies.

Anhydrous ammonia is essentially dry ammonia gas compressed into liquid form. Most accidents occur when the material is being transferred from one tank to another. One of the major causes of accidents is hoses coming loose or bursting.

Under-Secretary Campbell suggested that a key safety precaution in using anhydrous ammonia is to be sure equipment meets Federal standards, and to follow the prescribed sequence of operations for connecting to, filling, and disconnecting from the applicator tank.

"Water—lots of water—is the best first aid treatment for ammonia burns," Campbell said. Federal standards require that at least five gallons of water be carried on the tank transporting vehicle at all times. "Salves, ointments, or oils should not be applied to ammonia burns for at least 24 hours; they will cause deeper burns," the Under-Secretary warned.

The campaign to encourage safer use of farm chemicals is being coordinated with the Farm Conference of the National Safety Council.

Under-Secretary Campbell heads the USDA Farm Safety Advisory Committee. Coordinating the year round safety effort are: Dr. Lloyd Davis, chairman of the USDA Farm Safety Task Force; Bob Gilden, secretary; and Herb Plambeck, assistant to the Secretary. Ovid Bay, Extension Service, heads the farm chemical safety program.

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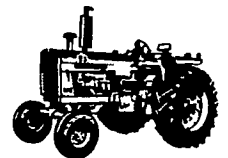
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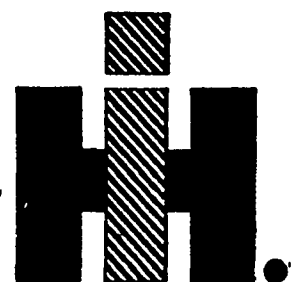
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