

Environmental Laws Will Affect Manure Systems

UNIVERSITY PARK—Air and water pollution regulations, which will be intensified in the future, will determine which types of manure handling systems farmers will have to devise, a farm systems research specialist noted at the Dairy Herd

Management Conference held at The Pennsylvania State University.

Rodney Martin, of Agway, Inc., speaking to 400 dairymen, said the soil, as a living filter, will dispose of all manure materials without runoff if properly han-

dled.

He cautioned the dairymen to take a "wait and see" attitude toward new pollution regulations before investing thousands of dollars in new disposal systems.

"One concept of the future possibly will be two-story barns where animals are housed on the top floor and the basement used for manure storage," Mr. Martin

said. "Storage bins or tanks can be constructed to allow manure storage of up to six months."

Another method may be storing liquid manure in tanks in or near the barn and then having the product pumped by an irrigation system directly onto pasture and cropland, he said. This, he added, is now being done by a number of farmers.

Mr. Martin emphasized that liquid manure storage is costly at the present time and requires large amounts of water to maintain.

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reporter; Bill Hurst, secretary. Standing: Mr. Robert Woods, Chapter advisor; Eugene Nolt, treasurer; Galen Rutt, student advisor; Robert Reifsnnyder, vice-president, and Jay Weaver, chaplain.



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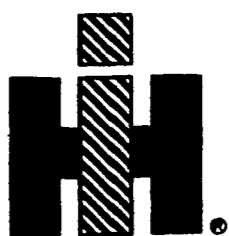
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