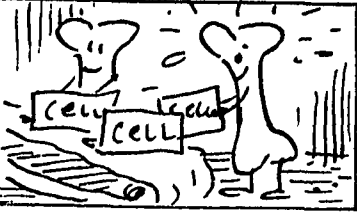


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Animal and Crop Wastes Ensiled for Feeding

Silage produced from crop and animal wastes—such as chopped cornstalks or oat straw, and cattle or poultry manure—makes suitable feed for beef cattle and sheep, according to experiments at The Pennsylvania State University.

Such silages show normal fermentation with no decay and none of the objectionable odors usually associated with animal wastes, says Dr. T. A. Long, professor of animal nutrition.

On a dry matter basis, the experimental silages contained 70 per cent crop wastes, either chopped cornstalks or oat straw, and 30 per cent cattle or poultry manure.

Meat from the experimental cattle was tested for flavor, tenderness, and juiciness by a taste panel at Penn State. The panel favored meat from beef cattle fed poultry waste over beef from cattle fed soybean meal, a standard protein supplement.

Such silage offers a practical method of producing beef and lamb at lower or no greater cost than with standard roughage while obtaining high quality meat with less chance of pollution from accumulated wastes, Dr. Long affirms.

Many times there is not sufficient land on which to spread

the manure as fertilizer from large cattle feedlots and poultry plants, he points out. Thousands of acres of crop residues—corn, oats, and wheat—are also available for animal feeding.

The best silage was made from an oat straw-poultry waste combination. This contained 16 per cent crude protein and 52 per cent digestible organic matter. Although the oat straw-cattle waste silage had only 12 per cent crude protein, the digestible organic matter was 50 per cent. If grass hay were substituted for oat straw, a silage of higher nutritive value could be obtained.

Crude protein content averaged 13 per cent for cattle waste silage and 14 per cent for silage from poultry waste. Silage from poultry waste averaged 45 per cent in organic matter digestibility. Cattle waste silage, on the other hand, had less digestible organic matter than silages without manure. This may have been due to the high lignin or fiber content of cattle manure, Dr. Long believes.

The experimental silages had a "good silage" odor. The crop wastes and manures underwent a normal chemical change known as anaerobic fermentation, meaning it was accomplished without air—typical of silage production. Moisture level of all silage was adjusted to 55 per cent. The cattle and poultry wastes were collected fresh, free from bedding or litter.

Working with Dr. Long on the animal-crop waste studies were W.W. Saylor, graduate assistant in animal science from Bruin, Butler County, and Dr. L. L. Wilson, professor of animal

science. The research was carried out within the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

The next step in the research will stress feeding trials readily accepted the experimental feed.

Research elsewhere has shown that digestibility of high fiber crop residues could be improved by treating the crop wastes with alkalies such as ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide. However, Dr. Long and associates consider the use of alkalies unjustified from the standpoint of cost, corrosiveness, and possible dangers from the use of such products.

Three Manufacturing Employees Retire

Three employees of Sperry New Holland's manufacturing division in New Holland will retire from the company today, September 1.

Isaac S. Zook, 22 Brubaker Ave., New Holland, will retire as a Pattern Maker "A". He joined the company in 1945 as a carpenter and has also worked as a pattern maker-wood.

William P. Skoles, 139 Elmwood Rd., Lancaster, will retire from his job as a truck driver with the company. He joined Sperry New Holland in 1951.

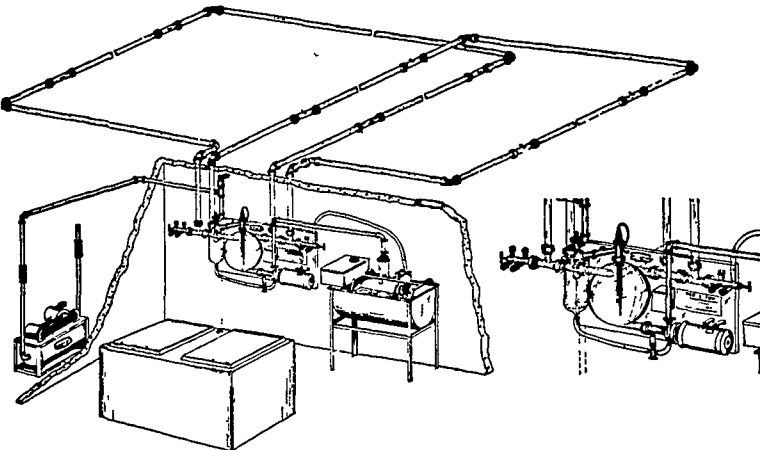
Christian M. Zimmerman, Ephrata RD1, who joined the company in 1968, retired from his position as plant serviceman.

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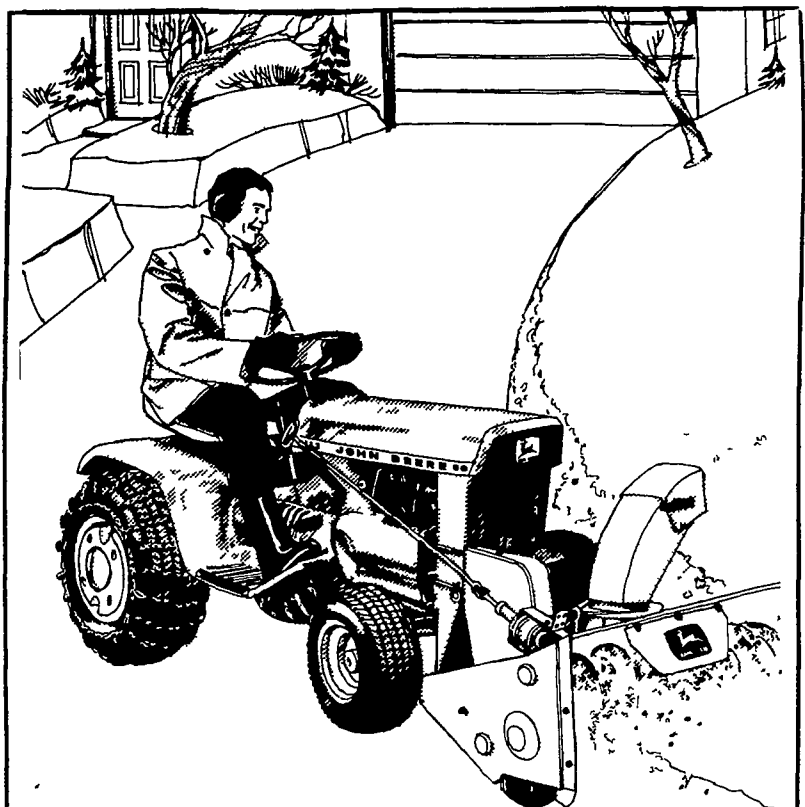
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