

## Young Farmers meet

The Manheim Young Farmers Association recently met in the Manheim vocational agriculture classroom. Following a short business meeting, the evening's topic and panel members were introduced by James Kettering.

The meeting's topic was Corn Grain: How should I store it? Members on the panel were: Ray Shenk of Shenk's Farm Service, Lititz - drying high moisture grains and drying systems; Nevin Gish of Agway - treating grains with organic acids;

and Bill McLain of Penn-Jersey Harvester - storing grain in sealed storage.

Each panel member gave opening remarks about their systems and products. Following these comments, the panel members responded to questions from the twenty farmers present.

The following is some of the information brought up at the meeting by questions and answers.

When corn is dried the maximum temperature for animal feed is 140 degrees, commercial use: 130

degrees, and for seed: 110 degrees. Dried corn can be held in a bin for one year when it is dried to 13 percent and for five years when it is dried to 11 percent. There are basically six ways to dry corn which include: layer drying in the bin, bin drying with stirring augers, bin drying with stirring augers and floor augers, non-circulating batch dryers, recirculating batch dryers and continuous flow dryers. Proper cleaning of the grain helps reduce the amount of fuel required, and heat spots

are less of a problem. Costs for fuel per bushel is about 8-9 cents for the recirculating batch dryer; 12-13 cents per bushel for the bin with stirrers, and 20-24 cents for layer drying. These figures do not include costs for depreciation for bins, dryers and other costs.

The second method was using Chemstore II. Chemstore II is an organic acid which contains 20 percent acetic acid and 80 percent propionic acid. The acid kills bacteria and fungi and preserves the corn at field conditions. The corn is usually at 22 percent to 28 percent when it is treated

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and moisture barriers maybe needed to prevent more moisture entering the grain. This corn can be stored anywhere except in metal bins for up to one year. When the farmer contracts with Agway; the cost for acid, equipment, and labor is about 25 cents per bushel plus the cost for the storage area. The farmer can receive a guarantee for the treatment. There appears to be an advantage in gains when using acid treated corn as compared to dried corn. One point to remember is that the corn must be fed to animals, because there is no market for the treated corn.

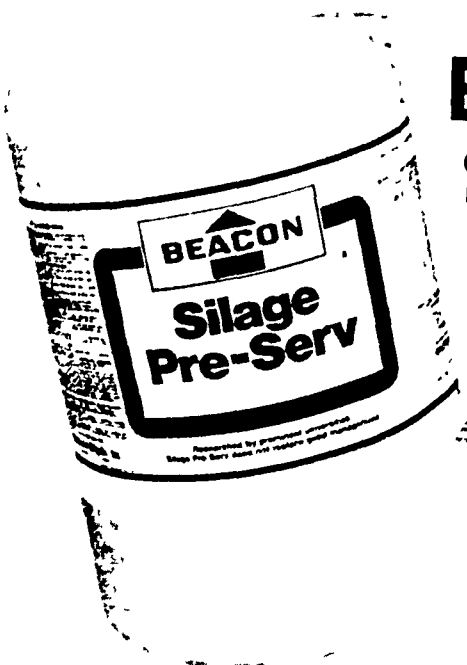
The third method is storing the high moisture corn in a sealed storage. Pound for pound of dry matter the high moisture corn has a higher feed efficiency than dried corn. The main reason for this is that the storing process does not seem to change the availability of the nutrients as much as drying. The first year cost per bushel is about \$2.60, but this is reduced when it is divided by the life of the structure. This cost would be about \$2,000 for 10,000 bu plus the costs of electricity, blowing and

others. The major problem is the high investment with this system when you first start.

There is no one best system for everyone, so look into all of the possibilities and then decide.

### Lawn Care

In answer to the question concerning the merits of broadcasting lawn seed over the top of an established lawn, I'd have to answer in the negative; to do this is simply putting seed into a very poor seedbed with excess competition. However, if the lawn area was "de-thatched" in which case some loose soil would be brought to the surface and all old lawn clippings removed, then there would be a good chance of the new seeds getting started. Early September is an excellent time to de-thatch a lawn and to either make a new seeding or renovate an old lawn. De-thatching machines are available that will dig up the old decayed clippings, which should be removed. Some extra attention to the lawn in early September (lime, fertilizer, and weed killing) will contribute to a better



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