

# Manure

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manure daily from his free-stall barn and has solved the problem by installing a manure stacker system. The timbersided stacker is designed for 100 cows and is adequately handling manure from his present 80 head. The holding area was built of timber to keep down the cost of the project and because that type of construction was a way of getting around the problem of underground springs on the site which would not allow for a deep foundation. The walls are six feet high, made of three laminated two-by-ten

creosoted posts placed six feet apart.

With an accumulation of up to four and a half feet of manure, no movement of the walls or seepage have been detected. The five-foot thick concrete floor and access ramp are reinforced with iron mesh, and the whole pit slopes to a hole to accommodate a Patz liquidator. Duncan mentioned that because of dry crusting due to water evaporation, the liquidator handles only about one-half of the waste accumulated and the rest must be removed by a front end

loader. Using two spreaders of 350 and 280-bushel capacity, the area can be emptied of about 100 loads of waste in less than a day and a half. Duncan points out, however, that he does not have to haul the manure for any great distance and if he did, the operation would be costly.

In presenting his feed lot runoff lagoon system, Roy Christman of Hamburg R1 pointed out that the road to satisfactory waste disposal has been a rocky one for him. His problems with waste grew over the years in proportion to the growth of his dairy herd. The runoffs and underground pits which had handled 30 cows proved inadequate, as did the diversion ditch and tile drains he tried later, as his herd increased to 400 head.

With three acres under roof and existing farm buildings not ideally located on a hill as he would like them, Christman's major disposal problem has been liquid waste and the lagoon seems to be the answer. The lagoon system has been operating since last Fall, and although the solids which escape the pumping system to collect in the lagoon will have to be pumped out eventually, the only drawback to the system as the dairyman sees it is the weather. The heavy rains falling on frozen ground this past winter caused some overflow, but Christman pointed out that the amount of rainfall this winter was not typical for this area.

A feed lot runoff lagoon system which handles up to 200 head of beef cattle was outlined by Mark Wolfskill of Robesonia who also manages a separate dairy

operation. The lagoon, located within a few feet of the barnyard, is a round one about 30 feet in diameter and about four to five feet deep. The solid waste is kept in the barnyard and the liquid waste runs off from the feed lot to the lagoon. Approximately 250 feet of six-inch pipe carries the water from the lagoon to a 600-foot diversion terrace. Wolfskill estimates that only about 10 percent of the solid waste manages to get into the lagoon. Although that amount of solid matter does rise to the surface of the lagoon during the cold winter months, this condition is quickly reversed when the temperature rises and system is working quite well.

According to Robert Manbeck, getting his spray irrigation of milkhouse waste system into operation involved ten months of red

tape and delay. He was the first farmer in the area to put in this type of system and any farmer who wants to do so now can benefit from his experience. The main problem was a matter of classification until it was discovered that by installing a length of pipe above ground the system became a portable one and so could be approved for farm use. The irrigation system seemed to be the only answer to the Robesonia dairyman's problem with milkhouse waste which was complicated by the fact that his buildings are located close to the road with no place for runoff. It pumps about five to six hundred gallons of water a day, spraying about two-thirds of an acre, and no signs of erosion have been detected.

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Panelists who participated at the recent Berks County Dairy Day program were (bottom row from left) Robert Sattazahn, Robert Manbeck,

Mark Wolfskill (back row) Roy Christman and Donald Duncan. The producers discussed manure disposal systems.

# Farm

[Continued from Page 10]

tournament at the high school, 7 p.m. Other area schools are going too.

Thomasville 4-H Community Club meets at the 4-H Center at 7:30 p.m.

Pennfield "Dairy Day" at the Good 'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, 12 noon.

Wednesday, Mar. 24

Farm Financial Management Clinic today and tomorrow at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 25

Holstein association holds State Calf Sale at the Farm Show Building.

Chickies Creek Watershed Association steering committee meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Manheim Central High School.

Friday, Mar. 26

Holstein association holds State Cow and Bred Heifer Sale at the Farm Show Building

Lancaster County Mini-Farm Coop. Meets at the Coca-Cola Building, Manheim Pike, Lancaster.

Berks County Conservation District meets 7 p.m. at Kutztown State College.

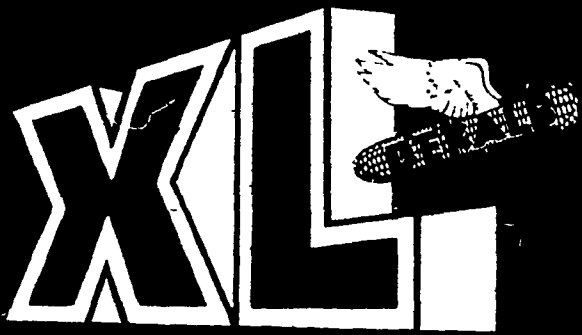
Saturday, Mar. 27

State Black and White Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

Sunday, Mar. 28

The National DHIA meeting convenes at the Baltimore Hilton and continues through Wednesday, Mar. 31.

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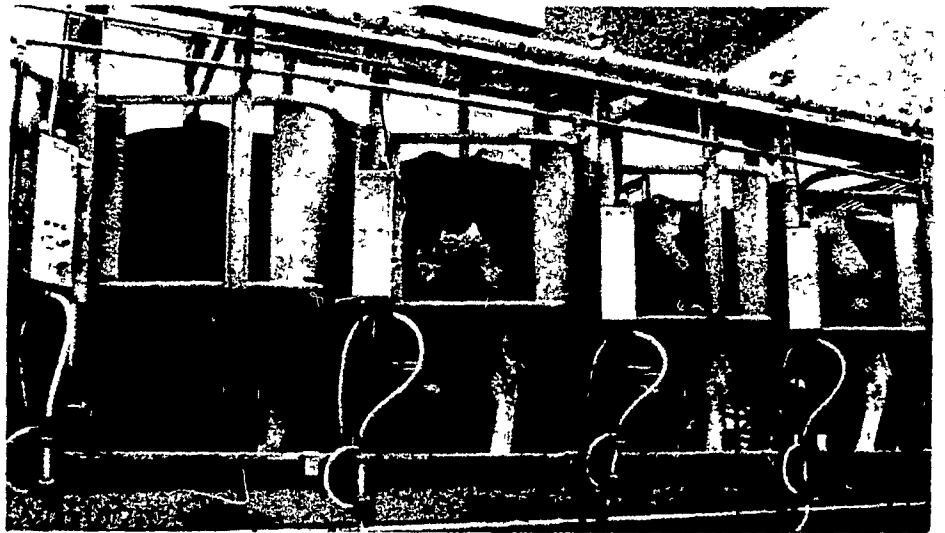


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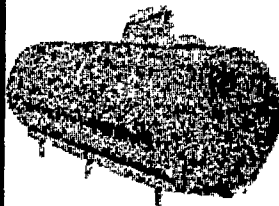
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