

COWAMP agricultural area map approved

HARRISBURG - The Study Advisory Committee which is a public committee that is reviewing Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan (COWAMP) met Thursday night and endorsed the effort of agricultural representatives who have worked together with COWAMP staff to produce a map of sensitive agricultural areas. Several months ago the committee felt that consideration of agricultural

areas in COWAMP should not be limited to areas with the best soils classification which was what had been proposed. Many of the productive orchards and dairy lands are on the lower class soils. Therefore, at a previous meeting they recommended that the agricultural representatives in each of the nine counties attempt to produce a map of agriculturally sensitive areas. The county meetings were held in May and June and the map that resulted

was approved at Thursday night's meeting. This is an example of the way in which the public is influencing the formation of the Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan (COWAMP) so that it reflects the needs of the region.

Gideon Yachin, representing Adams County, questioned whether the purpose of mapping agricultural areas is to discourage development and whether the map will be used for evaluation of non-point pollution sources of pollution. Terry Rightmour of Gannett, Fleming, Corddry, and Carpenter, Inc., the consultant to DER for COWAMP explained that placing sewer lines near an agricultural area can induce development in that area. COWAMP will point out conflicts between sewer lines and agricultural areas. He added that the placement of sewers alone will not determine where development will occur but it can be used as one tool to help implement local land use planning. He stated that the sensitive agricultural areas map will not be used to evaluate non-point source pollution. Eugene Hoffman from the Lebanon County Farmers Association pointed out that non-point sources of pollution are not limited to storm water runoff from farms but also include storm water runoff from urban areas.

The COWAMP consultant also gave a presentation on its proposed revisions to the Department of Environmental Resources stream standards. Stream standards were adopted in 1973 for every stream in Pennsylvania. In nearly all cases the stream standards will meet the Federal goal of having every stream

fishable and swimmable by 1983. Many industrial and community waste treatment plants may be required to upgrade so the stream standards can be met. Persons who would like to receive additional information on COWAMP or become active members of the committee can write to

COWAMP, Box 2063, Harrisburg, Pa 17120. The committee will meet next on September 30 at 7:00 pm at the Holiday East Motor Hotel, Rt 283 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike to further discuss and comment on the stream standards. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Vacuum pressure fluctuations may induce mastitis, study shows

RALEIGH, N.C. - Pressure fluctuations in vacuum lines of milking machines can induce mastitis by causing air to rush against the cow's teats. The rush of air can carry milk containing mastitis bacteria into the teat canal, says Dr. Paul D. Thompson of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Dr. Thompson subjected 12 Holstein cows to milking routines in which he varied fluctuations in vacuum pressure. Two teats of each cow were subjected to an abrupt vacuum loss after milk flow had ended. Air let into the long milk tube at its connection to the milker bucket caused a back-rush of air. This tube was contaminated with large amounts of mastitis bacteria. The other two teats were used as controls and

the short milk tubes to those teat cups were clamped before the teat cups were removed. Clamping the short milk tubes prevented a back-rush of air from the long milk tube towards the control teats. Only five per cent of the control teats became infected with mastitis while 22 per cent of the teats subjected to vacuum fluctuations became infected.

Based on this and other research he has conducted on mastitis, Dr. Thompson makes the following recommendations to dairymen to help control mastitis infections:

Selected milking machines that do not have vacuum fluctuations; that have cups which stay on the cow and do not slip off easily; and that have large milk lines and large capacity claw bowls so that milk flows freely.

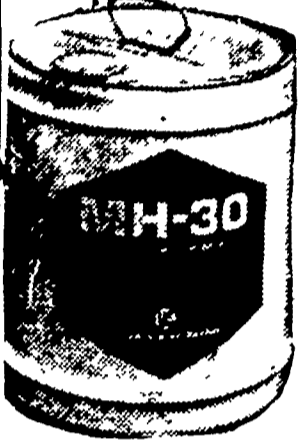
Shut off the vacuum at the short milk tube before removing individual teat cups; shut off the vacuum at the long milk tube before removing milking unit.

Dr. Thompson reported his research before the 71st Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association.

Operate machines with low milk lines or use receiver jars.

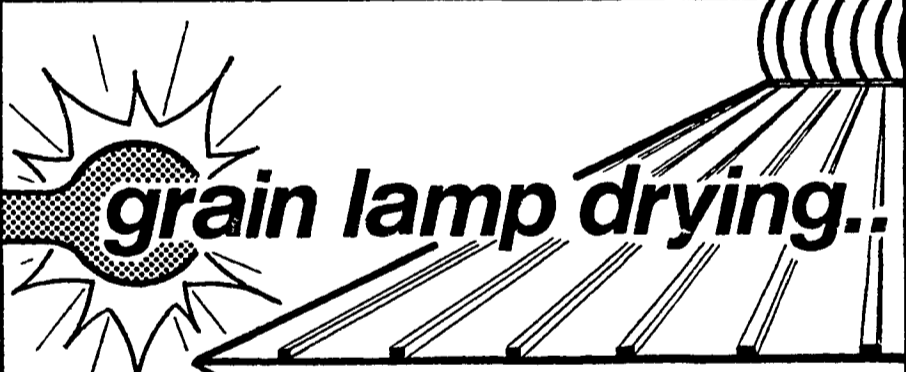
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