



Don Trimble, on the tractor, considers the construction of his "manure pond" to be one of the best things he ever decided to do. Approved by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), the low-cost facility will hold manure from Trimble's dairy herd for eight months. Under good conditions he'll empty it in six to seven days. The manure pond has eliminated two major problems on the Trimble farm: there's no more wondering what to do with the manure during the winter, and

it has eliminated the inconvenience of having to haul manure daily. The pond has a capacity for 400,000 gallons. Trimble has 90 milking cows and points out that the manure from 40 heifers is scraped into the area as well. Estimating that this system cost only about 25 to 35 per cent of what other structures cost, the southern Lancaster County dairyman maintains that odors from the manure pond are not near as noticeable here as from some other facilities.



This upright manure storage structure on the Jay Garber farm near New Danville has a capacity to hold manure from 125 cows for 3½ months. Measuring 30 feet in diameter by 48 feet high, the poured concrete silo may be tapped in the future for methane. The gas would be used to heat the milk house and possibly power a stationary engine used for pumping the manure.

The Garber farm was the first stop of a tour

## Conservation

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bitter-cold morning, the group of 17 drove off to see the Jay Greider farm near New Danville, and the Don Trimble and Robert Kauffman farms near Peach Bottom.

First stop on the tour was the Greider farm where manure is stored in an upright concrete silo. Field management practices were also pointed out, with terraces and sod waterways being the most obvious. When properly designed

and managed, these soil conservation practices can practically eliminate soil erosion and simultaneously keep soil nutrients where they belong, the visitors from state agencies were told.

All three of the farmers who owned the manure storage and handling systems expressed satisfaction with their choices, with one even going so far as to say that the decision to go to manure storage was "probably one of the best things we ever did." All three men had systems which were approved by the Department of Environmental Resources.

Don Trimble of Peach Bottom says his manure pond makes things "an awful lot handier compared to the conventional

system he used to have. He no longer worries about how and when to spread manure during the Summer and saves time every day. His pond will hold manure from 130 animals for eight months. It'll take him just six to seven days to clean it all out if conditions are right. Furthermore, his busy Summer schedule isn't interrupted by manure hauling.

"The odor is not near as bad from this (the pond) as from more closed in structures," Trimble told Lancaster Farming in a telephone interview. "There's no odor at all as long as the crust isn't broken, and just a little after it is cracked," he continued, "and even then it doesn't smell as bad as stable manure."

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