

# New hay grading method proposed

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Proposed new standards for grading hay were announced earlier this year by the American Forage and Grasslands Council (AFGC). The standards will provide a simple, precise way to price and market hay on the basis of actual feed value, said A.G. (Jerry) Matches,

AFGC president and Agricultural Research Service agronomist at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The grades were developed by an AFGC task force chaired by John Baylor of The Pennsylvania State University. Baylor told U.S. forage

experts meeting here about the grades' evolution; Duane Rohweder of the University of Wisconsin told how the hay testing and grading will work; and J.S. Shenk, Penn State agronomist, reported on his technique for instant determination of hay quality.

computer via telephone, and complete analyses would be made in less than two minutes.

To insure proper instrument operation the remote instrument operator would visually estimate hay quality. If the chemical composition does not accurately compare with the visual grade, a warning light would flash indicating the

sample should re-run to make sure the remote instrument is not in error.

Currently, hay grading is based on visual observation. The proposed new standards look "inside" hay at crude protein, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber. The first two are indicators of protein content and digestibility; the third is used in predicting forage

intake (how much an animal will eat of it.).

AFGC scientists say it will likely be two years before USDA completes its review of the proposed standards and takes any action. By that time, analysis techniques should be perfected for most hays.

U.S. farmers produce about 6.5 billion dollars of hay annually and, with the growing recognition of its feed value, more is being sold off the farm. In 1975, 20 per cent of the nation's hay was sold off the producing unit for a value of about \$1.4 billion.

## Broilers down slightly

HARRISBURG, Pa. - While continuing above 1976 levels, Pennsylvania's poultry production was down slightly during the week ending April 16, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Placements of broiler chicks were 1,740,000. The placements were two per cent below the previous week, but 11 per cent above the corresponding week a year earlier.

Average placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the past ten weeks were 20 per cent above the previous year. In the 21 poultry producing states, placements were 71,922,000. The placements were two per cent above the previous week and five per cent more than the same week a year ago. Average placements in the 21 poultry states during the past 10 weeks were five per cent above a year ago.

As that technique is perfected, scientists will be able to get hay analyses to two minutes or less with the help of a computer.

The proposed system calls for locating remote infrared reflectant instruments at strategic hay marketing centers, feed stores, etc., and attaching these to the computer network system.

The farmer or researcher would take a coarse sample of hay, grind it, and have it analyzed in the remote instrument. Information from the remote instrument would be plugged into a central

**SUTAN + ATRAZINE** Lets Your Corn Grow Free From Weeds

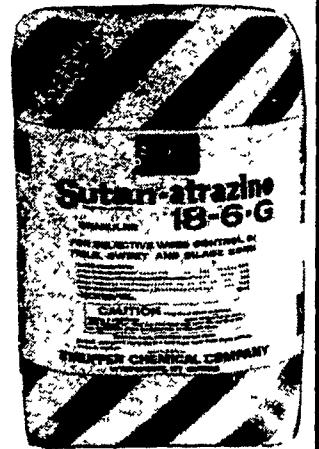
**DYFONATE** - For Root Worm Control

**FOR RENT** - GANDY Applicator or Sprayer for SUTAN + ATRAZINE Application

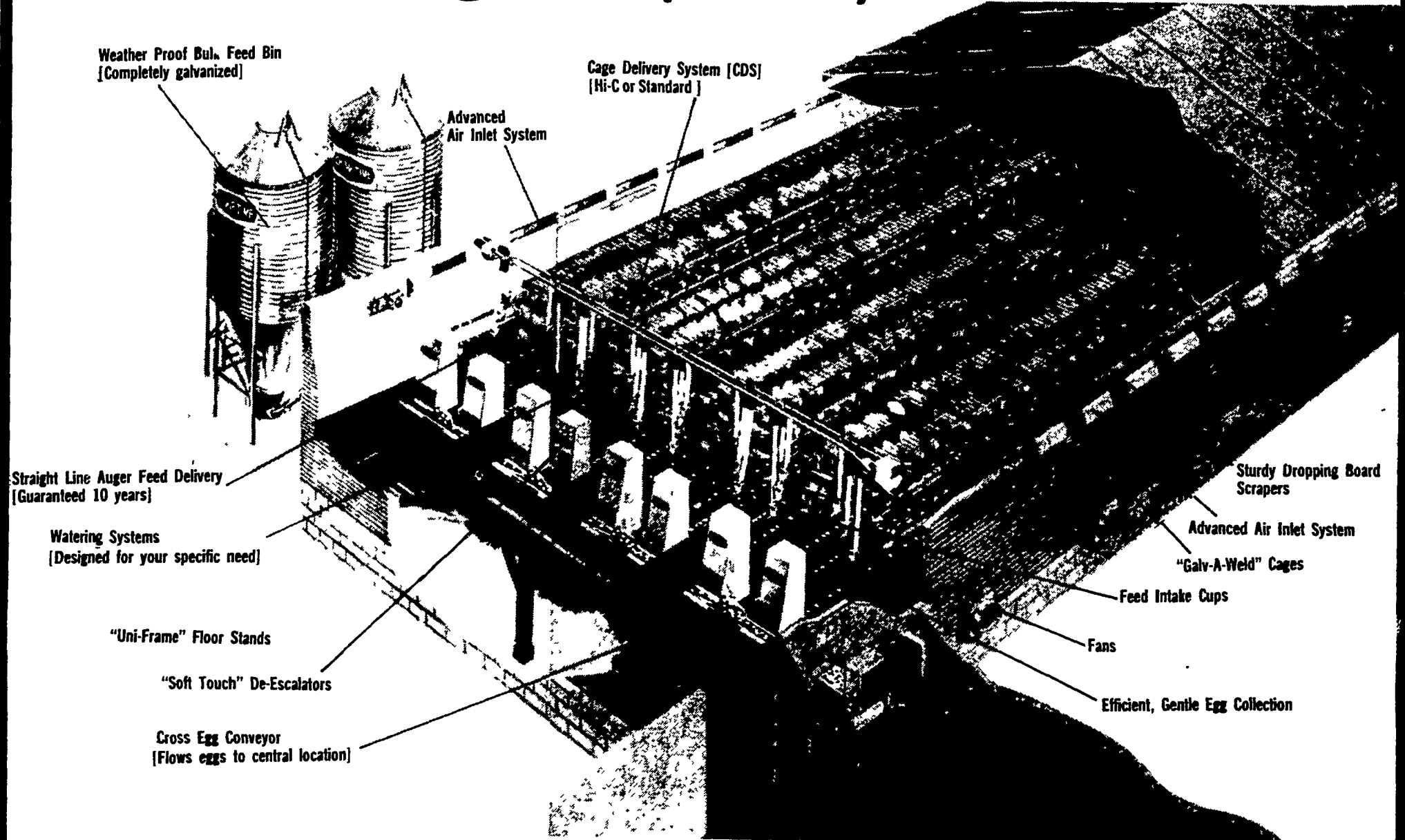
Liquid N. (Applicator Available)

**CONTACT**  
**JONAS S. EBERSOL**

1 1/2 Miles North of Bird in Hand on Stumptown Road.



# Chore-Time Cage Layer Systems



● SALES

● INSTALLATION

● SERVICE



RD 4 EPHRATA, PA 17522  
(FARMERSVILLE)

PHONE  
BUS. 717-354-4271