



Although 19,000-foot-high Mt. Kilimanjaro stands nearly on top of the equator, it is perennially capped with snow.

Dairy manure handling systems explained

DOVER, Del - A good manure handling system makes the best use of land, labor and capital. It also uses the manure's value as a fertilizer and soil conditioner while avoiding pollution and nuisance problems.

To aid the dairy farmer in evaluating systems, the Midwest Plan Service has published a six-page brochure examining the advantages and disadvantages of today's dairy manure handling systems, whether to haul the manure daily or store it and whether to handle it as a solid or liquid. Various designs for storage are illustrated. The value of manure is discussed in terms of both nutrients added to the soil and dollar returned.

The major thrust of the paper is the economic comparison of common manure handling systems using 1977 cost estimates provided by agricultural engineers at the University of Wisconsin. Detailed tables compare initial investment and annual costs for stacking manure, daily

hauling, liquid manure storage basin, and liquid manure storage tanks in both a 50-cow stanchion barn and a 100-cow free stall barn.

The comparison itemizes the major costs of handling dairy wastes and gives dairymen a feel for the relative costs of various systems. To extend the comparison to his own

operation, the dairyman can substitute his actual costs.

This publication, "Selecting Dairy Manure Handling Systems (AED-18)," is available for 50 cents from Delaware county agents or from E.W. Walpole, Extension agricultural engineer, University of Delaware, Newark, Del., 19711.

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