

Colo. facility to use animal wastes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has approved a \$14.2 million loan to the Lamar, Colo. Utility Board for construction of the largest animal waste bio-conversion facility in the United States to help meet the energy needs of 10,000 area residents.

Secretary Bergland called the methane generating facility, which will take 27 months to complete, "both exciting and innovative. The Department of Agriculture, through the Farmers Home Administration's business and industry loan program, is proud to participate in this venture which will demonstrate that it is possible to reduce this nation's dependence on oil,

natural gas and other non-renewable resources."

The bio-conversion plant will convert 350 tons of animal waste from feedlots in the Lamar area into a million cubic feet of methane gas per day. And it will also produce 130 tons of protein supplement from the residue that can be used as a livestock feed, reducing feeding costs by \$12 to \$18 per head, a substantial margin in the cattle feeding business.

The Four Corners Regional Commission provided nearly \$400,000 to help develop plans for the Lamar system and the USDA added \$25,000 to expedite the cattle feeding trials. The trials were to

evaluate how much weight the feeder cattle would gain by using the protein residue from the bio-conversion process.

Lamar recognized several years ago that it could no longer depend on natural gas for its energy needs and began seeking an alternative. A coal-fired generating plant was the first obvious answer before the bio-conversion plant, which is less costly and uses a renewable resource, became a possibility.

The bio-conversion plant will use the waste heat from the existing Lamar power plant and will recycle much of the water used in the process. After the water

from the anaerobic digester (methane generator) is used for the production of the algae, which can be used as a soil conditioner as well as a feed supplement, it will be returned to the regular water system for normal use.

The facility will serve several purposes beyond efficient generation of a long-term supply of energy from a renewable resource and the production of an inexpensive feed supplement for cattle. The facility will provide an effective pollution control system for the area feedlots, for example.

An estimated \$10 million in increased agriculture-related activity will result from the plant and about 70 new jobs will be created

Close mowing harmful to lawns

MEDIA — The height one mows may very well determine the life of the grass in his lawn. Mowing the Kentucky bluegrass-red fescue type lawn closer than 1½ inches gradually weakens and eventually kills the grass. The end result is a thinned-out lawn infested with a variety of weeds. Close cutting neither looks more attractive nor lessens the number of times a lawn must be mowed. Evenness of cut rather than closeness makes a lawn attractive. Close cutting does not permit the lawn to manufacture the food it needs for building strong deep root systems and a dense sod.

For the Kentucky bluegrass-red fescue type lawn, the mower should be set to cut the grass at a height of

1½ to 2¼ inches. This includes Merion Kentucky bluegrass. The 2¼ inch height is especially desirable during the summer months.

In contrast, certain types of lawn grasses are well adapted for close mowing. The bentgrasses and Zoysia should be cut at a height of ½ to 1 inch.

Mowing is necessary for a properly groomed lawn. One should be kind and considerate of the tolerance of the grass. It should be given a chance with a properly adjusted and sharp-bladed mower set at the correct height.

4-H officers elected

QUARRYVILLE — The Solanco Community 4-H Club met on May 4 in the Quarryville Fair Building, and, as part of the meeting, held an election of officers for the coming year.

The new officers are: Doug Hershberger, president; Mary Lindcamp, vice president; Nancy Akers, secretary; Tom Herr, treasurer; Susan Hess, news reporter; Connie Ziegler, game leader, and Margie Overly, song leader.

Bar Cadaoas and Ken Opinaldo, who are visiting from the Philippines, gave club members and guests an illustration of 4-H demonstrations in their native clubs.

Cadaoas' topic was "Treating Garden Seeds with Insecticides". Both led the group in singing songs from their country.

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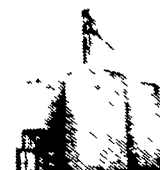
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