

Forty Kindergarten and first grade children from the N.C. Schaeffer Elementary School, Laureldale, Berks County, recently visited the Rae Hix Farm,

Mohrsville R1. They had the opportunity to see broiler chicks, dairy and beef cattle, and hogs.

Summer-stored grain needs to be warmed

NEWARK, Del. — Grain in storage that will be held on the farm into or through the summer months should be warmed up to 70 degrees Fahrenheit by the middle of June. This will prevent moisture migration that can induce spoilage.

According to University of Delaware Extension agricultural engineer Tom Williams, grain stored in bins of 2000 bushels or less usually do not require warming. Grain stored in larger bins, however, should be warmed five to 10 degrees Fahrenheit each month starting in April until the grain temperature reaches 65 to 70 degrees.

One can begin warming the grain with aeration fans on fair days when the average daily temperature remains 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit above the grain temperature. Average daily temperature is the daily high plus the daily low divided by two.

Air flows of one cfm/bu (common for drying fans) will need to operate about 15 hours to change the grain temperature, says Williams. An air flow of one-tenth cfm/bu (common for aeration fans) will have to

operate 150 hours or six and one-fourth days to change the grain temperature.

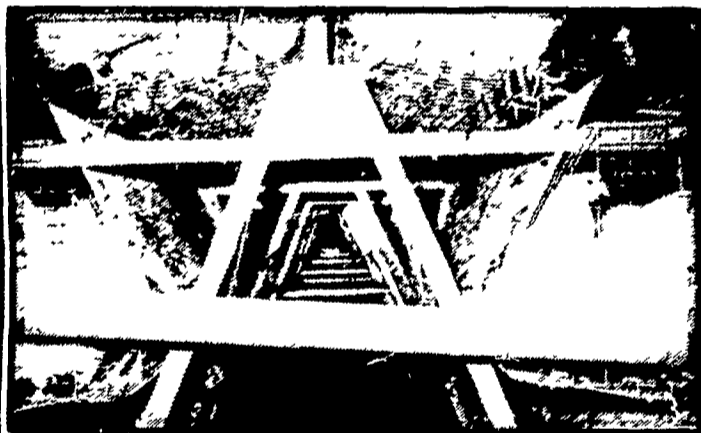
Aeration fans moving one-tenth cfm/bu or less air should be operated continuously until all the grain is warmed. Once a warming zone has started through the grain, it must be moved completely through since moisture tends to condense on the colder corn ahead of the warming zone. If the warm layer is stopped against the cool "wetted layer," corn in this zone may become musty and spoil.

The temperature of the grain can be checked by holding a thermometer in the exhaust air stream if the aeration fans are pulling the air down through the grain. This is also a good place to smell the condition of stored grain. Musty odors indicate spoilage.

It is unnecessary to continue fan operation after the grain has been warmed. However, operating the fans 15 to 20 minutes every week will move fresh air through the grain. If there is a pocket of grain that is deteriorating, the fresh air will likely pick up some of the musty odor and one will be able to smell this in the discharged air.

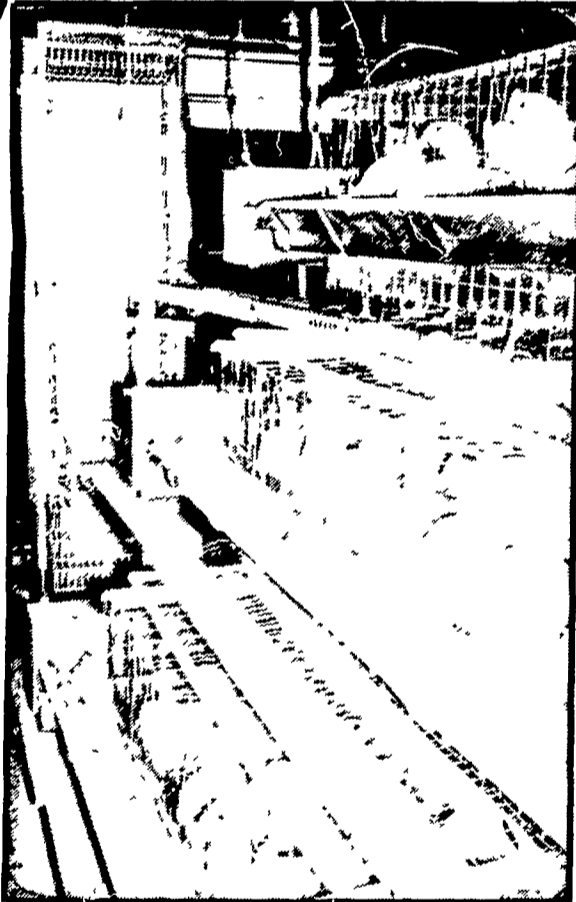
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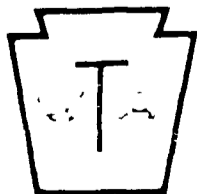
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