

## DER Ag Advisory Committee lists future plans

HARRISBURG -- The Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Department of Environmental

Resources will be reviewing work of the Department's Bureau of Environmental Planning in developing

recommendations for an antidegradation plan for non-point source water pollution.

The Bureau of Environmental Planning currently is obtaining information to determine the extent of the problem and whether there will be a need for additional rules or regulations.

It hopes to have a report ready for the DER Bureau of Water Quality Management by late Fall.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee asked that it be informed of the recommendations and any proposed changes to rules or regulations so it may review and comment on them.

At its July meeting the Advisory Committee also heard a report on activities involved in setting up a list of possible projects in the

Rural Clean Water Program.

The Rural Clean Water Program Task Group is using the Department's land use maps and overlaying them with watersheds to see land use by watershed rather than by political boundary.

After eliminating areas which are not eligible for consideration because they are on public land or are affected by acid mine drainage, they will establish a priority list of problem areas from which applications for funding for

corrective measures can be submitted to the Federal Government.

The Advisory Committee's Work Group on Sewage Sludge Application is continuing to review draft materials on use of sewage sludge and expects to have a package ready for the Advisory Committee at its November meeting.

The Work Group's manual on septage still is under consideration by the Department.

A "do-it-yourself" erosion and sedimentation control plan has been prepared by

DER for use by farmers without major site problems who do not want professional aid.

Farmers are advised of the availability of this plan but are encouraged to seek professional assistance in developing a control strategy.

The Work Group on Milking Center Effluents hopes to have a document on guidelines for effluent utilization available for consideration at the Advisory Committee's September meeting.

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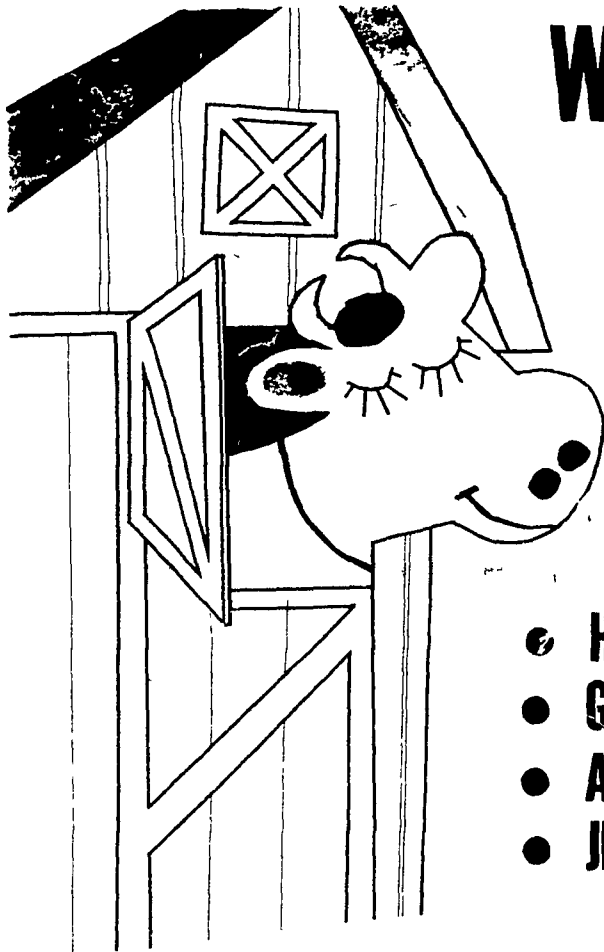
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## Funds available for building storage structures

NEWARK, Del. - Farmers who may be faced with storage problems this Fall can obtain funds to build additional facilities or to expand present storage structures, according to directors of the Agriculture

Stabilization and Conservation Service

During the past year, provisions of the farm facility and drying equipment loan program were broadened and liberalized to increase on-farm storage, and to insure adequate space for the 1978 harvest and grain placed in the reserve.

Under the program, farmers can borrow up to \$50,000 on facilities adequate to store two years' crops, with 15 per cent down and 7 per cent interest, to build typical, conventional type on-farm storage facilities such as steel bins, wooden granaries, and wet storage structures. The cost of concrete and electrical wiring is also covered under the program.

It is pointed out that facility loans are secured loans, and borrowers must provide adequate security to

protect the Commodity Credit Corporation's interest. The program provides for an eight-year repayment term.

Farmers can now obtain a loan to build high-moisture forage and silage facilities on their farms, and to remodel existing storage structures. Previously, loans were available only for construction of new facilities for high moisture grain or grain silage, and dry grain. These loans will benefit dairymen and livestock producers who need storage for grass silage, and also grain producers with storage facilities that need modification and remodeling to increase capacity and efficiency, the ASCS officials say.

For more information on the farm facility loan program, one can contact the county ASCS office.

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