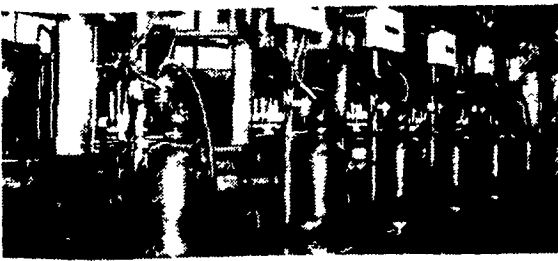


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## Pa. fertilizer dealers

(Continued from Page 32)

Particle separation is a problem which is evident throughout the dry-blend fertilizer industry. It exists at the pile where fertilizer components are mined and it's evident in the 80-pound bag the farmer takes home in his pick-up truck. The problem exists mostly due to the differences in particle size, but particle shape and density also have an effect. Many a farmer experiences the same situation with feed that is blown into a feedroom. The separation effect gets worse if the product is allowed to form a peaked pile or cone.

During the workshop sessions, those in attendance were treated to lectures on the fundamentals of quality control, screen analysis, and sampling. Also featured was a tour of a fertilizer plant and demonstrations of fertilizer mixing and sampling. All processes were conducted with Pennsylvania Agriculture Department officials looking on - or, as in the case of

sampling - performing the actual demonstrations.

Program participants saw how to take proper samples of dry blend fertilizer from either bulk units or bags. It was emphasized that the proper equipment is essential and fertilizer storage or hauling methods can have a big effect on the outcome of tests.

One of the ways the industry is using to eliminate the effects of particle separation is a series of baffles inserted vertically into the bins. The arrangement of baffles could take the shape of a long, vertical "egg crate," or be in the form of large diameter pipes (12 inches or more) placed adjacent to each other and installed longways inside the bin. Some dealers are already making use of such a system.

While recognizing that much still needs to be done, Pennsylvania's fertilizer industry boasts the following record:

In 1972 the percentage of deficiencies in Pennsylvania

was 32 per cent; in 1973 it was 21 per cent; in 1974 it dropped to 18 per cent; in 1975 it was 14 per cent; in 1976 it was 8 per cent and for 1977 it was a mere 3 per cent.

That record represents substantial improvement,

suggests Donald W. Parke, executive vice president of PennAg Industries Association. He also notes that the industry in Pennsylvania can take pride in these results. The only states to tie that record were Maryland and Wyoming.



A series of baffles inside the bin can be very helpful in eliminating the problem of product separation - the root of the analysis problem experienced by some fertilizer manufacturers. Doing the demonstrating above is Homer Kimbrough from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

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### Swine management meeting set

**NEW HOLLAND -** A swine management meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Hinkletown Alternative School. The topic of the meeting is the production of top quality market hogs.

Speakers for the evening will include Doug Clements of Hatfield Packing and Paul Futch of Smith-Kline.

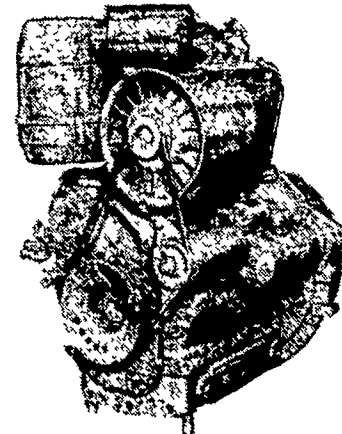
Clements will discuss what Hatfield considers a top quality market hog,

marketing trends and what the producer can do to produce the quality of hogs the markets are looking for.

Futch will be discussing the products that Smith-Kline have available to help produce a quality hog. Products include medication for scours, disinfectants and growth stimulants.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information contact Bob Anderson at 717-354-0480.

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