

New silos boost

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a company from Sioux City, Iowa. "Normally, the construction company would bring along a crew of unskilled laborers to handle the heavy work. But we insisted that they recruit local work crews, and most of the two dozen or so laborers were college kids home from the summer. We even had five

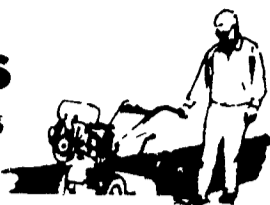
or six women in the crews." Like the feed mill, the slipform crews worked around the clock. Concrete trucks from the Kurtz Brothers plant in Ephrata rumbled over a continuous day-and-night route for a month while construction was going on.

The concrete was poured over a skeleton of interlocking steel reinforcing bars placed inside the form, a double-walled steel ring as big around as the silo. As the concrete at the bottom of the form hardened, the form was gradually slipped up, hence the term "slipform". The form moved upward at the rate of an inch every five minutes.

In all, the new silos consumed some 1,700 cubic yards of high density concrete, with another 500 yards used in the pouring of a massive underground pad which serves as a foundation.

Slipforming was some 30-percent cheaper than the more usual methods of construction, Greenwood said, with no sacrifice in structural strength.

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Household remedies to aid iron problems

WEST CHESTER—Iron in water can interfere with household cleaning and grooming routines. It can cause staining of plumbing fixtures, washers and dishwashers; discolor fabrics during laundering; impart a yellow cast to dinnerware and give water an objectionable taste. There are permanent solutions and temporary remedies to these problems.

As a chemical constituent of water, iron comes from both natural sources and manmade sources—rusting of pipes, water heaters, other objects of cast iron and steel, and industrial wastes.

Iron is present in water in two forms—ferrous or ferric. In the ferrous form (dissolved), the solution is nearly colorless and generally causes little

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1. **Cutting the crop.** Feeding silage offers you the advantage of being able to cut your crop before protein digestibility and palatability are reduced by overmaturity. Use this to your advantage by cutting near the following recommendations:

Product	Maturity	Moisture
Corn	Early dent	68-72%
Forage Sorghum	When leaves begin to turn	70-74%
Clover	½ heads in bloom	70-80%
Alfalfa	1/10 heads in bloom	70-80%
Cereal Grains	milk to soft dough	70-80%
High moisture ear corn	milk to soft dough	40-42%
Grass	when first stems head	65-75%

2. **Moisture Content.** Moisture is essential to the ensiling process: it provides water for lactic acid-forming bacteria and it promotes compaction. On the other hand, excessive free moisture or heat will result in excessive run-off and silo wall pressure. Silage approaches an ideal state when essential moisture is kept high but free or run-off moisture is held to a minimum.

Since moisture and lactic-acid forming bacteria work together in the ensiling process, Nutri-Sil can help you approach the right moisture level by improving moisture tolerance...reducing heat and run-off.

Many operators use the "squeeze test" to determine when cut forage has the proper dry matter/moisture balance. This test consists of giving a handful of forage a good squeeze with both hands. Moisture is about right when the resulting ball expands slowly—if it pops open or crumbles, it is too dry for good silage. If it remains a tight ball, it is too moist.



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Hallowell calls ag districting "key element" for land use

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monwealth could well be the foundation upon which Pennsylvania's efforts to preserve agricultural land is built."

The Agriculture Secretary added that Agricultural Districting "will not be the final answer, but only a step toward the final solution" of this highly important issue.

Hallowell said that with the concept of agricultural districting, flexible and aggressive farming activities should be permitted.

"The right to farm after Agricultural Districts are created is mandatory if we are to preserve agricultural land. Unless we preserve the farmer and his right to farm, any legislation to preserve agricultural land will only lead to failure," he said.

"Pennsylvania's farmland is under increasing pressure from urban growth and expanding needs for supporting facilities such as highways, airports, power plants and residential, industrial and recreational areas. Demands for food and fiber for domestic and export needs add to the crisis facing a nation with a shrinking supply of good land," he noted.

Agricultural districting is a variation of the farm zone concept, with a critical difference, according to Hallowell. "Participation in agricultural districting is voluntary and usually formed via petitions on the part of landowners or local governments. It combines the positive incentives to encourage farming, such as preferential assessment and relief from nuisance regulations, with negative

disincentives to discourage non-farm activities."

Hallowell also noted that agricultural districting has the advantage of good political and public acceptance, since districts can only be created based on the will of a group of landowners. It is imperative that local officials be given the tools to use their own initiative in farmland preservation efforts, as they are best suited to determine the optimum usage of local land resources.

The first step in any land preservation program, Hallowell said would require an inventory of the areas which ought to be preserved as well as an expression of the willingness of the landowners involved to participate. "By the simple fact of establishing themselves in an Agricultural District, landowners will have answered those two questions for us. Local officials will then be able to enter into a dialogue with the individuals to establish an appropriate preservation method," he said.



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