

Developers seek new site for large hog operation

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
MOUNT JOY — Once again, after agricultural and residential development locked horns, farming has been found in a position of giving more ground.

The latest confrontation involved a million dollar confined hog operation planned for West Hempfield Township in Lancaster County.

Despite favorable rulings by the township and the county court that the 480-sow farrow-to-finishing operation could be built, agricultural developers have decided against the location.

"When going into an investment of that size, we don't want to be worried about continuing complaints from area residents," Jay H.

Rohrer, of the developing firm, said.

The facility was proposed by Terra Grain, Inc., a division of M & R Grains, Inc., grain storage and drying company at Mount Joy.

Although deciding not to proceed with plans for West Hempfield Township, Rohrer said "We have not given up on building such a facility, though."

He declined to discuss alternate plans or possible other locations.

Rohrer pointed to the serious problem faced by farmers when they plan new facilities or even expand existing operations.

"We're living in a highly populated area," he said, "and it seems the farmers

are getting squeezed more and more all the time.

"Zoning boards should get together and better define rural areas and what types of agricultural operations can be permitted."

In the case of the proposed West Hempfield facility, the Lancaster County Court upheld the decision of the township's Zoning Hearing Board that the confined production of hogs was permissible as a special exception in a rural zone.

The township decision had been appealed to Lancaster County Court by Salunga Land Development Corporation, which owns land near the proposed site.

In his decision, Judge P. A. Mueller Jr. noted that testimony of Terra Grain

"dealt extensively with showing there would be no adverse effect on surrounding property" because of dust, odor, noise, health or safety problems.

Irregardless, Rohrer explained it was decided not to go ahead in West Hempfield.

"We don't want to argue with people all the time if they have a bitter taste in their mouth even before the facility is started," he said.

The proposed facility with a 480-sow capacity featured a complex of buildings radiating from a central accessway. The confined operation included sections for gestation, farrowing, nursing, growing and finishing.

Manure was to be handled

in a slurry store operation.

The West Hempfield operation was to be similar to facilities at the New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, and in southern York County.

In fact, the township zoning board visited the New Bolton Center during its

consideration of the proposed facility. Salunga Land Development in its appeal also objected to that visit.

Judge Mueller found that such a visit was a very practical approach and there was no impropriety in making it.

Gasohol meeting Thursday

LANCASTER — Poultry manure and gasohol will be the topics of discussion at a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Farm and Home Center.

W. H. Mitchell, University of Delaware agronomist,

will cover the nutritive value of poultry manure and its use in cropping programs. Two speakers on gasohol will include James Garthe, Penn State agricultural engineer; and Morton S. Fry, Ephrata, member of the Pennsylvania Gasohol Commission.

BIG FARM POWER AND EQUIPMENT

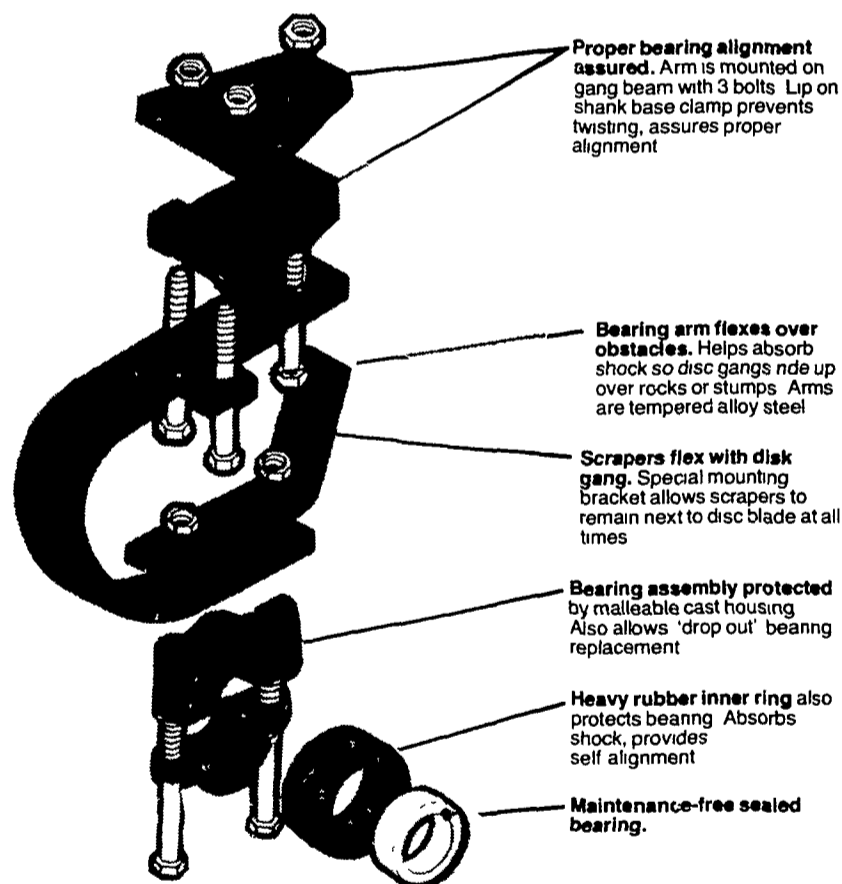
WHAT YOU NEED IS A KRAUSE ROCKFLEX DISC WHY?

AND HERE'S WHY IT
 MEANS GOOD NEWS
 FOR YOU!

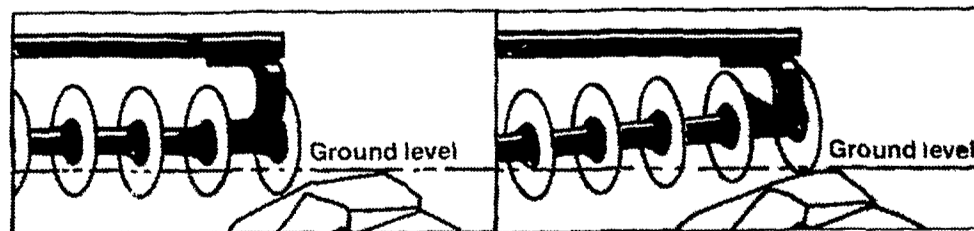
Unique C-shaped bearing arm:

- Flexes over obstacles
- Protects disc blades from breakage
- Protects tie rods from bending
- Protects spools from breakage
- Absorbs shock — minimizes bearing wear
- Improves trash clearance

BECAUSE OF KRAUSE SUPERIOR
 "ROCK-FLEX" BEARING ARM



A Krause innovation! The "Rock-Flex" bearing arm was invented by Krause in 1965.



ALL NEW AND USED
 PRODUCTS BACKED
 BY
**HOOBER
 PARTS
 & SERVICE**

C.B. HOOBER & SON, INC.
 INTERCOURSE, PA
 717-768-8231

HOOBER EQUIPMENT, INC.
 SUDLERSVILLE, MD
 301-758-1212