

# Newest farm ideas shown on Kent County farm tour

HARRINGTON, Del. — Eighty local farmers had a first-hand look at some of the new practices being used on agronomic and vegetable crops in the area.

They took part in the recent Kent County Crops Tour, sponsored by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and the agribusiness community.

First stop on the tour was Lake Forest High School, where the FFA chapter, working with the Extension Service, had prepared replicated plots featuring various treatments on no-till and conventional corn and soybeans.

At the Winkler Brothers Farm near Harrington, which features no-till corn and soybeans and irrigation, growers paid special attention to the no-till planter equipped with a squeeze pump.

It is used to apply a dribble application of Poly-N starter fertilizer along the sides of rows.

At his farm near Williamsville, Robert Munner uses drip irrigation with cantaloupes. He also uses the drip system to apply nitrogen fertilizer.

Moving on to the Kent County Water Treatment Plant, county agricultural agent Dave Woodward explained the water reclamation project in which sludge from the plant is used as a nitrogen source in corn production.

Earlier research on this sludge by University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station researcher William Liebhardt has shown it to be safe and effective on field crops as long as it's applied at reasonable rates and the soil pH is not allowed to drop too low.

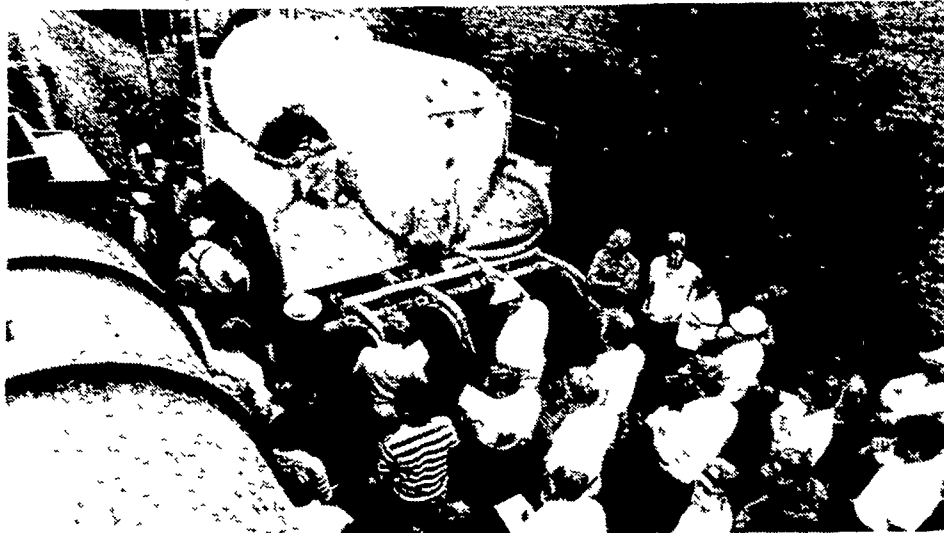
Now Kent County has been spreading or injecting the sludge on interested farmers' land.

But since many farmers have expressed interest in using the sludge for vegetable rather than field crop production, Liebhardt is now researching the effects of sludge on vegetable crops at the University's Georgetown Substation.

The last farm on the tour



Delaware extension crops specialist Frank Webb describes a Lake Forest High School FFA corn demonstration project to an audience of farmers and extension personnel during the recent Kent County crops tour.



Kent County agricultural agent Dave Woodward perches atop the machine the county uses to inject sewage sludge into farmland. He described the project during the recent Kent County crops tour.

belongs to Charles Postles, Milford. There the group looked at drop irrigation under plastic for peppers, cantaloupes, and honeydew melons.

About half the group ended the day by joining farmer Vance Morris and his sons on their boat, the Tradewinds, for a trout fishing expedition.



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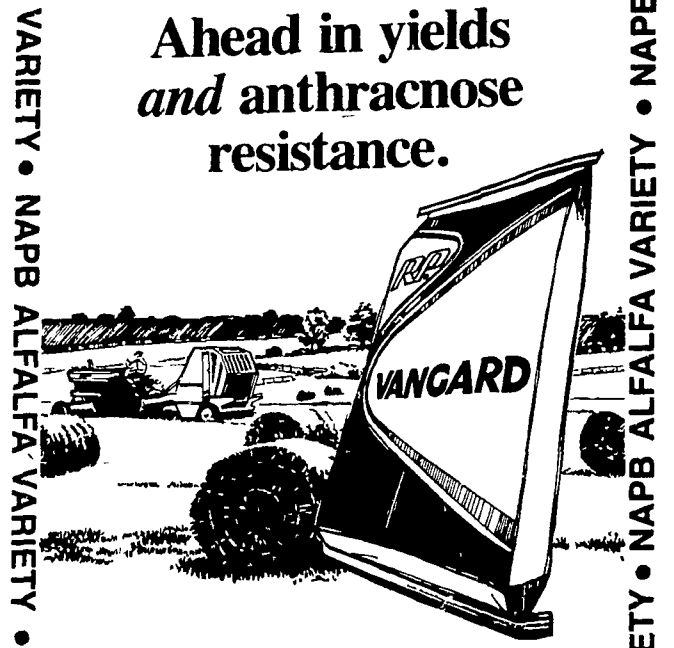
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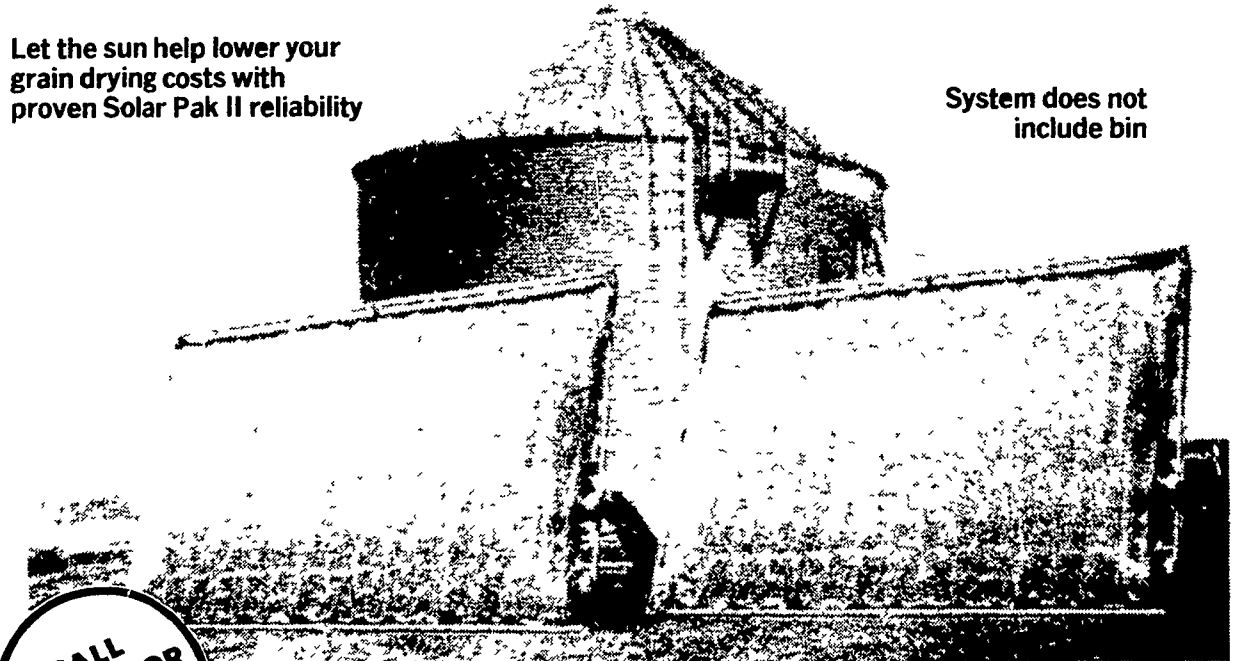
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