

New machine composts unwanted organic waste

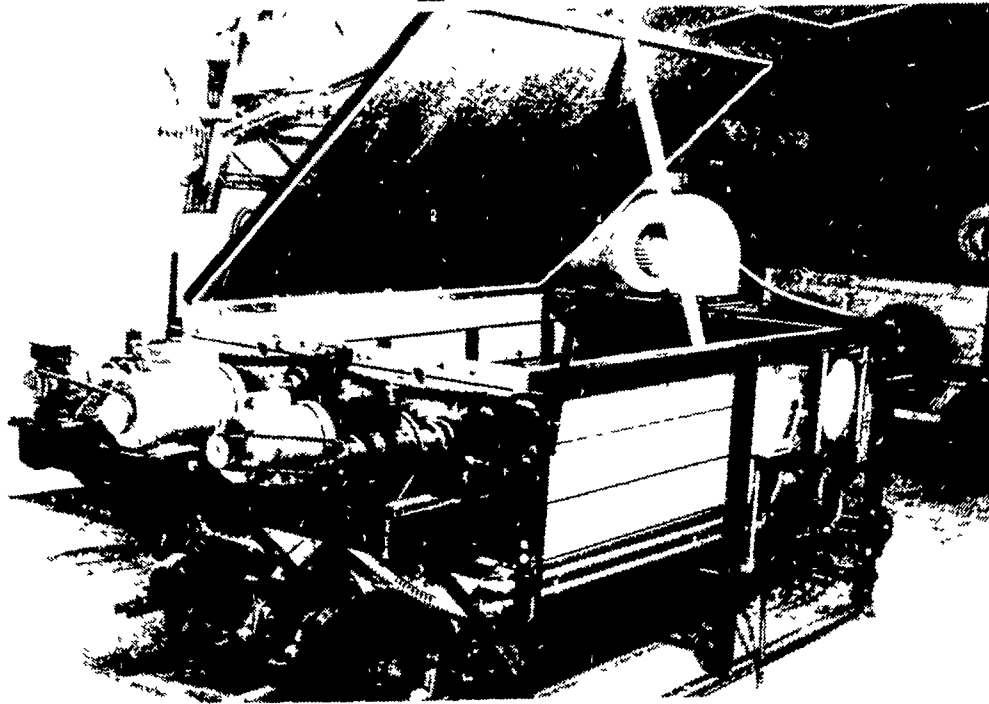
LANCASTER — Farmers and food processors have long been plagued with the problem of what to do with manure, slaughtering offal and canning wastes.

Increased restrictions imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency has further complicated the problem. Open dumping is generally forbidden, burning is closely controlled and slurry lagoons just don't make for happy neighbors. Disposing of organic waste can become a mountain of a problem for some farmers.

One answer to the problem may be the Brill Digester.

Looking much like a gigantic wooden hope chest, the Digester takes any type of unwanted organic waste and in 24 to 72 hours turns it into a rich, dry substance the color and texture of pipe tobacco.

The principle behind the machine is exactly that of the backyard compost pile: aerobic bacterial action. Like a compost pile, it generates its own heat. Energy is required only to churn the waste and supplement the drying of the



It eats manure, crop residue, dead animals-any organic waste-and using only aerobic heat churns out a rich brown, odorless compost in 24 to 72 hours. This demonstration model of the Brill Digester is currently being shown throughout the country by its distributor DeKalb AgResearch.

end product.

No additives are necessary, only the 30 percent addition of some biodegradable absorbent such as sawdust, ground cobs, shredded paper or hay.

fertilizer, useful anywhere from rose gardens to bedding for commercial mushroom farming. In addition, because it tests out with 13 percent digestible protein, the compost has

Because the aerobic action heats the compost up to 170° F., pathogens are killed, weed seeds sterilized and odors virtually eliminated.

The end product makes a superb humus building

become a valuable supplement to cattle feed.

"We've had calls from all over the country," says John Taylor of DeKalb which distributes the digester. "Especially from poultrymen."

"They're seeing that this machine can turn a nuisance into a profitable end product. One California egg producer has been sending two or three containers-full of poultry manure to Hawaii

every month-all dried by natural gas. He's ecstatic about the cost savings the Digester offers."

As feed prices rise and fixed ammonia fertilizers become increasingly expensive, the market for the end product is wide open. Couple that with the Brill Digester's environmentally clean process and it seems likely that a lot of farmers will soon be churning out brown gold.

Mushroom committee organized

WASHINGTON — An informal group, the U.S. Mushroom Committee of State and National Agricultural Organizations, coordinated by Pennsylvania State Representative Joseph Pitts has been organized on behalf of the U.S. Mushroom Industry in its pursuit of government relief from canned mushroom imports.

Consisting of the American Mushroom Institute, Pennsylvania Farmers Association, Pennsylvania Food Processors Association, Pennsylvania Farmers Union, and the Pennsylvania State Grange, the group aims to prevent duplication of efforts so that their goal of import relief can be reached as expeditiously as possible. Congressman Dick Schulze (R-5, PA) is coordinating the efforts of the Committee in Washington, D.C.

The Group's action to educate legislators and government staff officials about the problems of the U.S. Mushroom Industry comes in the wake of U.S. International Trade Commission recommendations on the petition filed by AMI

under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. However, the U.S. Mushroom Committee strongly supports the imposition of a mandatory five-year quota beginning at a level of 78 million pounds for the crop years July 1,

1980 through June 20, 1982. During the following three years, the recommended quota would increase ten percent for each year. This five year period is necessary in order to allow the industry time to obtain and install the

new equipment so vitally needed for it to become competitive again.

For further information, contact Representative Pitts at (717) 783-2910 or (215) 444-4581.

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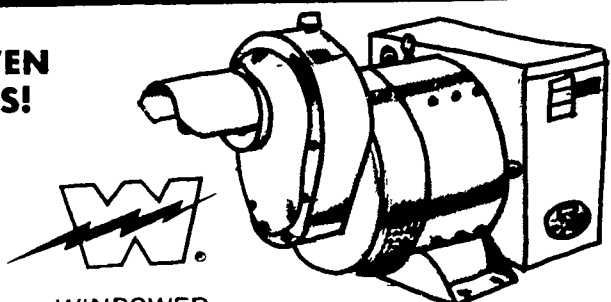
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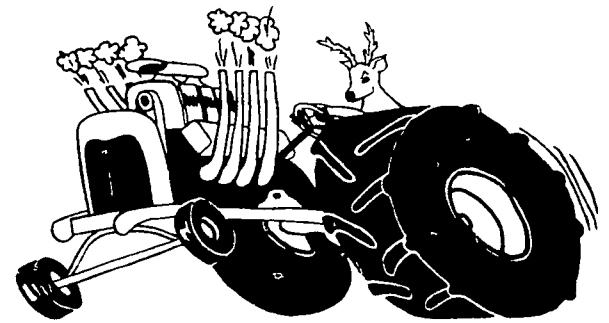
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