

Nation's first RCWP grant goes to Maryland farmer

NEW WINDSOR, Md. — John Parker Smith, a Carroll County, Md., dairy farmer, became the first person in the nation Wednesday to receive payment for completing a pollution control structure under the new experimental Rural Clean Water Program.

About 75 farmers and agency officials attended an open house at the Smith farm marking the occasion. Among them was Raymond Fitzgerald, head of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service which administers the program. Fitzgerald applauded Smith and local agency officials for their speed in implementing the program which was approved for funding this past summer.

But the highlight of the afternoon came when Melvin Baile, chairman of the Carroll County ASC Committee handed Smith a check for \$9500 covering 75 percent of the cost of his new animal waste handling facility.

Smith, 33, oversees the management of the 550-acre farm with the help of his father John Elmer, Brother

Malcolm, and two employees. The Smiths' milk about 150 grade Holsteins with a rolling herd average of 15,000 pounds of milk and 575 milk butterfat. They raise their own feed including about 300 acres of corn, 100 acres of small grain, and 125 acres of hay.

"Everything but the protein," Smith says.

Smith said he built the facility to control the pollution problem and keep ahead of federal officials who he feels may one day require farmers to adhere to strict pollution control guidelines if they don't take action themselves first.

Before the new solids separation pit was constructed, the runoff carrying waste from about 200 head in the barnyard and dairy parlor washed directly into a small stream. Now the runoff from the one-acre area drains into the pit which was designed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Randy Bachtel, SCS soil conservationist, explained that the system was designed to allow the solids to settle to the bottom of the



That's a \$9500 check J. Parker Smith's mother, Florence Mary, and father, John Elmer, are holding. It covers 75 percent of the cost of his new animal waste facility. Parker was first to complete a pollution control structure under new Double

Pipe Creek Rural Clean Water Program in Carroll County, Md. Tired out after the afternoon's festivities and speechmaking, son Paul, 3, rests on his father's shoulder.

pit while the liquid is released into a 12-foot wide,

350-foot long grassed waterway. Any remaining solids are trapped by the grass and the liquid infiltrates into the ground before reaching the stream. The solids trapped in the basin are periodically spread on the land as fertilizer.

Just how often the basin has to be cleaned out depends on the amount and frequency of rain as well as the number of cows. But Smith says the basin has about 30-days storage capacity which he'd eventually like to increase to about 60 to 90 days.

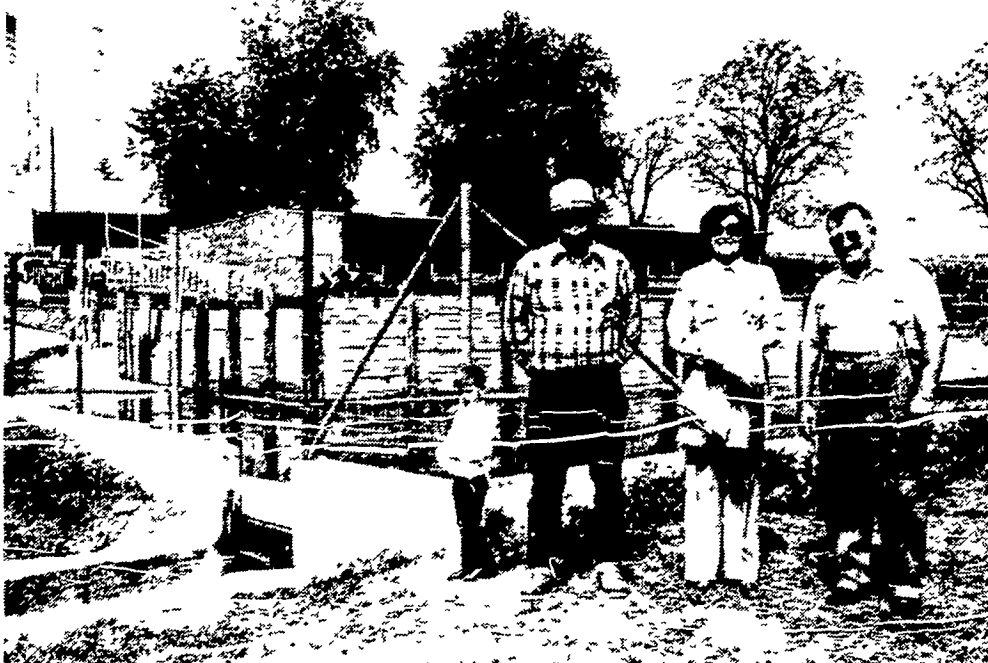
Unlike some other system Smith's is both labor and energy efficient. It required no pumps, and since the liquid is drained off, eliminates the need for having to haul rainwater that's trapped along with the runoff.

A board member of the Carroll County Soil Conservation District for the past three years, Smith is a firm believer in conserving resources. On his cultivated land he used crop rotations, stripcropping, minimum and no-till planting, and grassed waterways. These, explains

Bachtel, help stop soil erosion and keeps sediment from washing into the streams that dissect the farm.

In addition to taking advantage of the RCWP project himself, Smith has promoted it among other farmers in the area and is responsible for getting some to sign up under the new program.

"I feel that people having sediment and animal waste runoff problems can use the RCWP program to help solve pollution problems on their farms, too," he says.



The solids separation pit behind the Smith family will keep animal wastes from the dairy parlor and barnyard from polluting a nearby stream. At far left, is Smith's son Paul, 3.



J. Parker Smith poses near the liquid release board of his new solids separation pit. Parker was the first farmer in the nation to complete a pollution control structure under the new experimental Rural Clean Water Program.

Nominate a winner for storm water management award

LANCASTER — Applications will be accepted in Lancaster County until October 15, 1980 for the "Outstanding Storm Water Management in Land Development Award."

The award program is designed to recognize a project which implements storm water management techniques that eliminate excessive runoff and resulting flooding and erosion.

Municipal officials, developers, site planners, architects, engineers, and

others involved in the development process are invited to submit nominations. The nominations must, however, be supported by the elected officials of the municipality in which the project is located.

To be eligible for the award, the project must be initiated and substantially completed during the last five years. It must be located in Lancaster County.

The award will be presented at the Lancaster

County Conservation District's Annual Banquet which will be held in March. At that time, the developer, designer, and municipality will be recognized for their contributions.

More information, including guidelines and procedures can be obtained by contacting the Lancaster County Conservation District at the Farm and Home Center, Room 6, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601; telephone 717/299-5361.

Montgomery 4-H steer show winners named

LANSDALE — David Huff of Lafayette Hill took top honors in the annual Montgomery County 4-H Steer Show held recently in Lansdale. David's steer was named Grand Champion animal while Dave took the titles of Grand Champion Showman and Grand Champion Fitter for his outstanding abilities in grooming and handling the steer.

Jim Roth of Collegeville

was also a big winner when his steer won Reserve Grand Champion and Jim was named Reserve Champion Showman. Judge Charles Mentzer of Royersford also named Jim Arthur of Worcester the Reserve Champion Fitter.

Results of the type classes were:

Lightweight 1 Tim Fagan Norristown
2 Chris Fagan Norristown 3 Bernadette McMahon Green Lane 4 Bruce Augustine Schwenksville
Medium Weight 1 Richard Roth, Collegeville 2 Rusty Bryant Worcester

3 Steve McMahon Green Lane 4 John Bryant Worcester 5 Jim Arthur Worcester
Heavy Weight 1 David Huff Lafayette Hill 2 Jim Roth, Collegeville 3 Becky Roth Collegeville 4 Angela Bernotas Gratersford
Fitting and Showmanship results
First Year Members 1 Jim Arthur 2 Bernadette McMahon 3 Tim Fagan 4 Chris Fagan 5 Becky Roth
Juniors 13 and under 1 Richard Roth, 2 John Bryant 3 Rusty Bryant
Seniors 14 19 1 David Huff 2 Jim Arthur 3 Angela Bernotas 4 Steve McMahon
Champion Showman David Huff
Champion Fitter David Huff
Reserve Champion Showman Jim Roth
Reserve Champion Fitter - Jim Arthur