



Clair Brenneman, dairyman, discusses with Bill Horst the possibilities of spreading sludge on pastureland. The Pequea Township farmer milks



60 Holstein cows and raises their feed on his 225-acre farm. Clair is the tenth generation of Brennemens to farm what's left of the original 1000-

acre tract, farmed in 1717 by Melchior Brenneman. The barn was constructed by Martin Brenneman in 1806.

## Lancaster farmers enthused about sludge

LANCASTER — Two Lancaster County farmers who have jumped into the City's sludge program are Clair Brenneman, Danville Pike, and Franklin Myers, Long Lane.

Clair Brenneman claims to be one of the first farmers in Lancaster County to use sludge, having had it hauled onto his farm by truckload during the 1950's.

"I remember at that time they used to charge \$1 a load," he recalled. "That first year I got 60 to 70 loads of the sludge, and I've been using it on and off over the years ever since then."

Brenneman is quite enthusiastic as he lists the benefits of using sludge.

"Sludge is a byproduct of the City that's a valuable fertilizer for me. It's im-

portant that we recycle this waste rather than throwing it away.

"I grow 100 acres of corn a year — 40 acres goes in the silo. Of these 40 acres, only 10 are planted to winter grain, leaving 30 acres open. Spreading sludge on these fields helps to provide a cover and prevents erosion

"And, I can't overlook the fertilizer value in the sludge.

With fertilizer costing between \$6000 and \$7000 a year, I'll do anything to minimize my expenses."

Brenneman pointed out most Lancaster County soils are low in organic matter due to the method of farming in the area

"Everything comes off the field and is run through the barn. But when you haul it back to the fields in the form

of livestock manure, its been condensed. By spreading sludge on the fields, we're putting some humus back in our soils.

"Soils are like bank accounts — if you don't put anything into them, you can't expect to keep drawing something out."

Brenneman noted the only bad experience he has had in the many years he has been applying sludge to his land was with neighbor complaints on odor. As a solution to the problem, Brenneman said he now applies 100 tons of lime over the sludge to eliminate odor until the sludge is knifed into the soil

Two and a half years ago, USDA conducted a study on

the Brenneman farm to evaluate the effects of long-term sludge application. Happily, Brenneman reported USDA found no heavy metal buildup or anything else that would be detrimental to his fields.

The Pequea Township dairyman proclaimed sludge to be "economical — it can't be beat for fertilizer."

Franklin Myers, Long Lane, has been using sludge on his 200-acre farm for the past five years. He, too, believes sludge can save on fertilizer costs

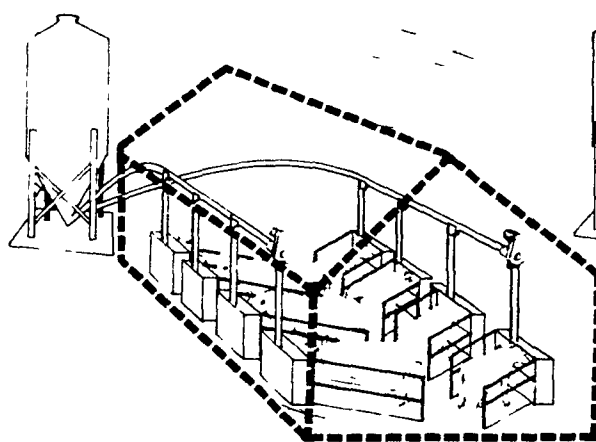
In previous year, Myers said he tried sludge on no-till fields. Unfortunately, the sludge tended to crust and

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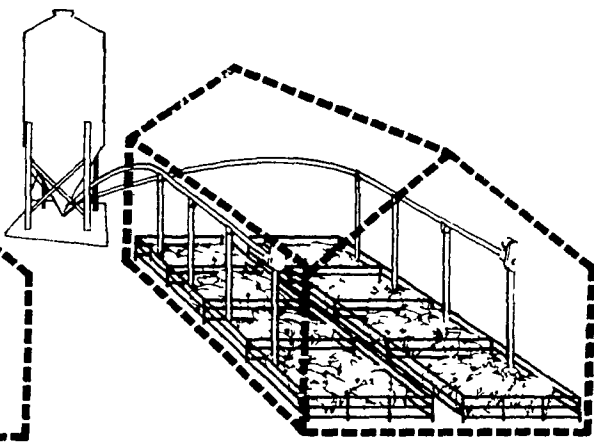
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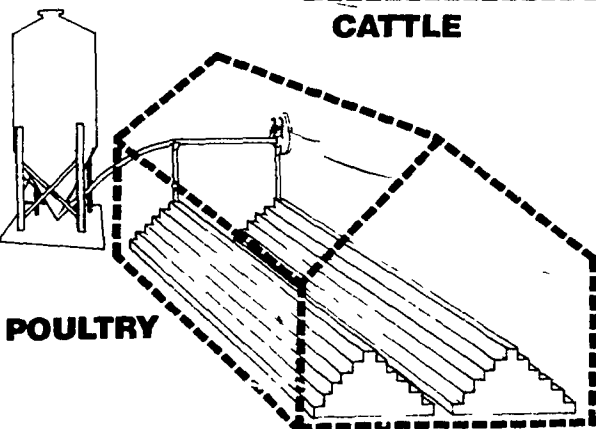
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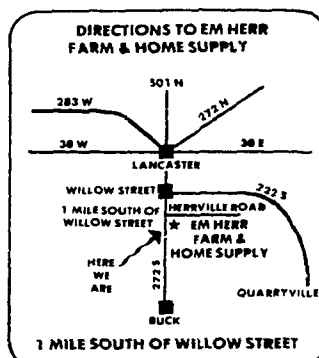
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## Guernsey tops

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The Criders have four children. Eldest son, Allan, 24, is a psychology graduate of Tennessee Temple. Diane, 23, is on the staff of Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, Va. Debbie, 22, is a pre-med graduate of Houghton College, New York State, and has been accepted at the Pennsylvania School of

Podiatry. Ricky, 21, is a junior at Liberty Baptist, majoring in business.

Attention, after the holidays, will be centered on Sue's next calf.

Then, she's due to be reclassified in February. Last year, she was classified only a week after freshening at 89, just one point from excellent.



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