

York ag-business

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Stressing the urgency of finding suitable disposal sites, Jones related one instance of illegal dumping of hazardous waste in mines near Pittston, which potentially threatened to contaminate the water supply "the whole way to the Chesapeake."

"And nobody wants radioactive wastes," Jones added. "That's an emotional issue. But what do we do with X-ray waste, wastes from academic research, like some done at Penn State, or chemotherapy waste from places like Hershey Medical Center?"

But Jones contends that the state's most critical issue at this time is water. "Pennsylvania heads the nation in water-borne diseases," he warned. Coliform bacteria, largely from sewage and septic problems, are steadily causing a deterioration in the quality of the water supply.

Quality, quantity and cost are the major headaches for the firms that provide water to the citizens of Pennsylvania. As many as 500 water companies from across the state, says Jones, now face major problems of some type. Some 90 drinking-water dams have been declared structurally unsafe and will cost between one and ten million dollars each to repair.

Supplies are becoming critically low, following a drought of the past several

months. Harrisburg city water reservoirs, according to Jones, cannot handle two years of drought back-to-back. Hazleton has only a 13 percent supply left. In neighboring New Jersey, ocean salt water is steadily seeping into some fresh water wells.

We've had more hundred-year floods in the last ten years than in the last hundred," reminded Jones. Blaming heavy flooding on continuous land development and more and more acres of pavement, the DER head warned that this problem will ultimately lead to even greater stacks of regulatory dictates.

Echoing many of Secretary Jones' fears was Bill Conn, senior planner for York County and wrap-up speaker for the seminar.

Conn told the ag-business audience that York has land planning at both extremes, some excellent and some downright poor.

He cited some of the poorest planning as that right outside the restaurant hosting the seminar.

Several years ago, the Route 30 bypass sliced through the Avalong Farms' rich, flat land, just as it divided several miles of fertile farms in the valley that stretches east of York to the Susquehanna River. Conn laments that the location of the by-pass is a major culprit in land use problems of that area.

Today, industry, government institutions,

educational facilities, commercial establishments and agriculture intertwine among each other in the quadrants of the by-pass interchange.

The proposed Liberty Mall is now scheduled for a part of the Avalong land adjacent to the restaurant site. It's one of two sprawling new malls planned for the York outskirts, already entangled in a jumble of shopping establishments.

"This problem right here is so typical of this state and nation," criticized the planner. "My personal opinion is that we have too many malls already. We can conceivably supply our buying and daily service needs already here in York County, but will we be able to supply our own food needs? As we grow, we're going to have to grab farmland to do it. We must sit down and look at what agriculture land is absolutely vital to our community."

Featured on the morning program was Penn State wildlife sciences specialist Terry Rader, with a slide presentation on the ecological system, and a panel on protecting the environment. Panelists were Tom Williams, a Dauphin County dairyman experimenting with sewage recycling on farmland, Ruggs Harwell, York County district conservationist, and Donald Lott, pesticide inspector for the state Department of Agriculture.



Maryland ag week

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — "Maryland Agriculture: Voice of the Land" has been selected as the slogan for the 1981 Maryland Agriculture Week celebration, according to Jack I. Matthews, chairman of the Ag Week Board of Directors.

The slogan, suggested by Cheryl Myers, was chosen from approximately 100 entries submitted. Miss Myers is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodman Myers of R2, Thurmont, Md.

Governor Hughes has officially designated February 1 to 7 as Ag Week with agriculture exhibits being set up at Salisbury Mall in Wicomico County February 2-7 to mark the

beginning of the activities.

The traveling exhibits will be displayed in the local malls of five additional Maryland counties on the following dates:

Montgomery County at Montgomery Mall -- February 9-14

Baltimore County at Westview Mall -- February 16-21

Washington County at Valley Mall -- February 23-28

Frederick County at Fredericktown Mall -- March 2-7

Prince Georges County at Laurel Centre -- March 9-14

The public is invited to view the displays free of charge. The purpose of the

six-week tour is to allow food producers to tell consumers about the role of agriculture in today's world.

The 12-year-old activity is sponsored by Maryland's agriculture industry. In addition to the mall exhibits, the traditional legislative banquet will be held the first week in February.



Lebanon farmers

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are killed in the Northeast even though the total number of hogs slaughtered in the Northeast has dropped 7 percent since 1949," he said.

As far as price outlook was concerned, Moore predicted 1981 price tags on hogs to be \$50 the first half and \$53 the second half. However, production costs will be higher, totaling \$52 to \$55.

"With good management and marketing, you'll be able to cover costs slightly," Moore concluded.

The meeting was sponsored by Lebanon Valley National Bank.



Just porking fun — Penn State's Lou Moore tries to ham it up as he predicts the market futures, an otherwise humorless forecast.

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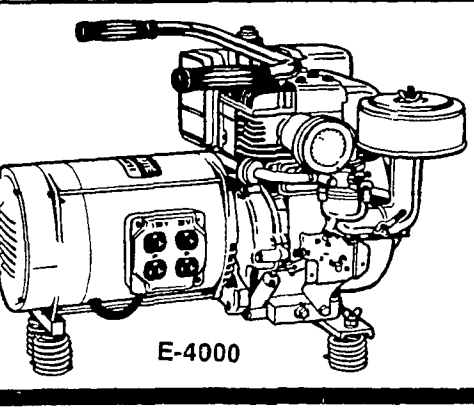
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