

# State plan

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single milking during the Agnes Flood of 1972, mastitis increased in his herd. To get all his cows milked each day would take 32 man hours, he figured, an enormous task for one person in the event of a nuclear accident. He was more optimistic about survival chances of the cattle without water and food, stating they might last two weeks but would take at least a year to recover from the effects.

When asked if he made any changes to the shelters on his farm since TMI-2, Lytle said "no." Reacting to the question of whether he would follow an evacuation order in the event of another accident or defy the order and stay with his herd, Lytle said, "I would have to weigh my family or the herd and decide at that time which would be best."

Lytle also stated no one contacted him after TMI-2 for inputs to the state emergency plan.

The Middletown farmer's sentiments were echoed for the most part by two brothers, Jeremiah K. Fisher and Vance Fisher, R3 Etters.

If an emergency was declared at the plant (TMI-1), which is 3½ miles from my home, I would leave my cattle, although they and my farm represent my total real assets, since my primary concern would be for my family.

"During the TMI-2 accident, I evacuated my family to a place 50 miles away, and I returned once a day to care for the livestock. My livestock are fed outside, so they were not protected from radiation. My animals also are pastured.

"I do not believe that we will be given the truth, and if there is a bad accident that there will be time to take action to protect our animals.

"Lack of plans to evacuate livestock of farmers who live close to the TMI plant will make it impossible to save the livestock in case of a real disaster. We may lose our lives in trying to return to care for our animals."

Fisher stated he also has open housing for his dairy cattle. He said he plans no alterations to his buildings.

Brother Vance Fisher, who keeps about 15 to 25 beef cattle on his 160 acre farm testified that the nuclear generating plant has had an impact on his herd's health.

We have had a problem of paralysis starting in 1975, possibly 1976. We had our veterinarian there. He has never been able to determine the cause. He has treated five animals for me, which have died. Neighbors have lost a considerable number of animals.

"Back in the winter of 1978-79, the Food and Drug Administration authorized feeding selenium to animals. I studied up on it and I found that was our problem. We were lacking in selenium.

"Selenium is a mineral which is necessary to the body functions, same as iron, calcium, and so on."

Fisher said he linked the selenium deficiency to the chlorine emitted from the reactor, causing a chemical reaction in the soil.

"Although the problem has been identified, we are not satisfied that the explanation is complete. We feel that the plant is to blame, however we would have a hard time proving our case.

"I am not satisfied that the planning done for livestock in case there would be an accident at the nuclear plant is correct or sufficient. Veterinarians Dr. Robert Weber, Mechanicsburg and Dr. Lawrence Samples, Hummelstown both cited areas where the state plan appears impractical — ventilation and water storage.

# Agronomist advises plant some early corn

NEWARK, Del — "There's an obvious danger in offering advice when its value hinges on the weather. But when it turns dry, we'll try anything," says University of Delaware extension agronomist William Mitchell.

"I'm referring to the current low level of soil moisture and what we can do to make sure this water is used most effectively on our crops," he says.

Recent rains have brought 0.5 to over three inches of water to various parts of the region. Though this hasn't contributed much to subsoil moisture, it has restored surface moisture. The best way to hold onto this water until it's needed by crops is to disturb the soil as little as possible.

As soon as the ground is plowed or disked, the drying process begins. As water evaporates from the surface of worked soil, more water moves up to take its place and the process is repeated.

"With hundreds of acres to make ready for planting, I can appreciate the uneasiness about delaying tillage," says the

specialist. "But to make the best use of water, tillage operations should be kept to a minimum."

Many fields have been prepared and are just waiting to be planted. During the first week of April soil temperatures at seed depth were nearing good temperatures for planting corn.

Everything points to an early spring and in the long run, high yields are made by early planted corn, he says.

A few fields planted now will provide a hedge against drought and heat stress at pollination time. This corn will pollinate in late June, well in advance of the highest summer temperatures that usually arrive during the third week in July.

A little planted fertilizer such as 8-24-9, DAP, MAP or 10-34-0 will help the corn to establish rapidly and it may advance the silking date even further, says Mitchell.

Use a full-season hybrid and take advantage of the long days of spring.

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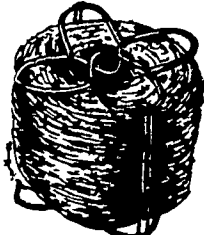
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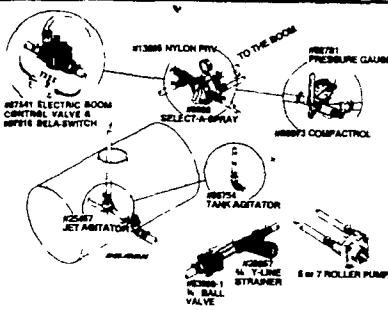


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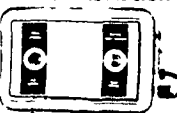
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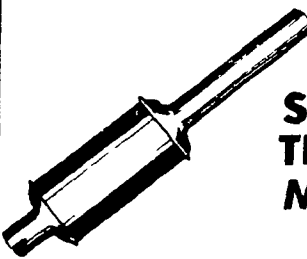
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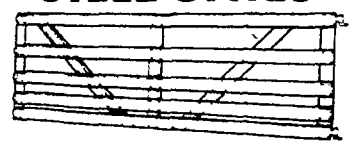
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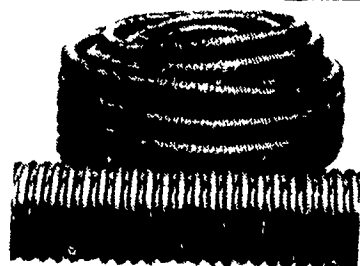
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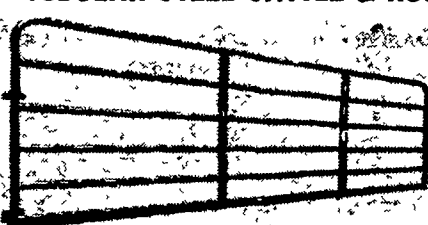


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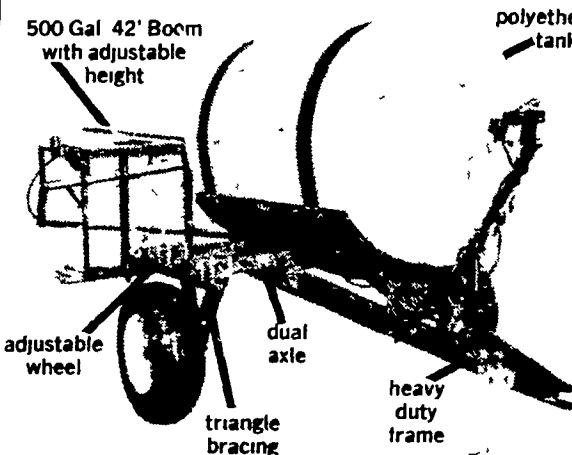
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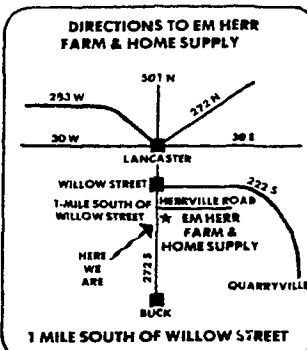
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