

Feed neighbors pork to cut odor problems

NEWARK, Del. — Not everyone agrees on what constitutes an obnoxious odor. When economic times are good in the swine industry, hog house odors aren't too bad, as far as the producer is concerned. When prices are low and feed costs high, the smells are likely to take on a more offensive nature.

Odor control is a problem for the hog producer. The problem usually consists of complaints from neighbors either directly or through the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Producers are aware of the difficulty and most try to deal with it as effectively as technology and economics permit," says University of Delaware Extension livestock specialist Richard Fowler. "Odors from swine units aren't hazardous to human health. But health sometimes becomes an issue in hotly contested cases."

"In an agricultural community livestock odors are occasionally going to be detected. Complaints begin when their intensity, duration and frequency exceed reasonable limits."

Where do odors come from? Manure decomposition is the primary source. Freshly excreted manure has a less offensive odor than manure that's undergoing decomposition, says the specialist.

For an odor to be detected it must be formed, released and transported. The interruption of any of these three processes can reduce odor problems.

You can reduce odor formation by reducing moisture content. Manure containing less than 40 percent moisture has little anaerobic decomposition,

therefore little odor. Odor escape can be prevented by covering manure storage tanks. Hydrogen sulfide odors can be controlled with lime or other alkaline materials.

Proper management of a swine manure handling system can help reduce odor. This begins with the design and location of the system. Make sure outdoor lots are well-drained and don't let watering systems drain onto the lot surface.

Screens and/or windbreaks are effective in reducing odor intensity. Well-landscaped, neatly kept facilities help create the positive image of a producer who cares. Fowler says one unit he knows of even has a vegetable garden between two swine houses.

Manure lagoons present special challenges for odor control. A properly designed lagoon for anaerobic manure decomposition on Delmarva will allow ap-

proximately 1 cubic foot of storage for each pound of liveweight pig that is loading the lagoon. Floating aerators help reduce lagoon odor in areas of high odor sensitivity.

"Disposal techniques and timing have a great effect on odor development or dispersal," says the specialist. "Apply manure early in the day to maximize drying time. Prompt incorporation of manure into the soil is an excellent way to reduce odors."

Some odor control chemicals are available. Many are too expensive and unreliable to use effectively. There are several types of agents. Some have a stronger odor in order to mask the offensive odor. But given the subjective nature of odors, some people find these masking agents more unpleasant than the primary problem.

Odor counteragents are designed to interact with odors and lessen their intensity. These agents

have been partially effective.

Enzymatic products alter the process of manure breakdown. They also have had limited success.

One hog producer told Fowler he

occasionally likes to feed his neighbors some pork. He says it helps create good will and lets the neighbors know that there's something delicious being produced amidst the odor.

Del. student

(Continued from Page D4)

Though his host spoke excellent English, Steve managed quite well without an interpreter, thanks to six years of high school and college Spanish. He admits his grammar and vocabulary sometimes left a bit to be desired, but says everyone was extremely gracious and helpful.

Potatoes are a major crop in Chiriqui province. Before he arrived he didn't know what plant problems he would encounter, but as Leath toured the farms of Marciacq and other cooperative members, it soon became obvious they could use some help controlling plant diseases on this crop.

Because of diseased potato seed stock and unsanitary handling practices, some farmers were losing as much as half their crop. Others were losing between 20 and 30 percent of their yield to disease.

"The screening method I worked out for their seed potatoes requires very little equipment," says Leath. "We used kitchen knives instead of scalpels to cut our tissue samples and then placed these on an agar gel to culture out the bacteria."

Once he'd perfected his screening technique, he taught it to five or six of the leading members of the co-op. He also demonstrated the procedure on several of the farms he visited.

Because of Leath's efforts, Boquete's farmers may now be able to find out—before they plant—how much infection is present in their seed potatoes. This gives them the option of rejecting a bad lot, or looking for a better source. The result could be bigger yields from healthier plants.

The experience gave the young plant pathologist an opportunity to prove himself, too. "It was the first real chance I've had as a graduate student to function completely alone in the field—no books and no professors to fall back on," he says.

Leath finished his master's work this spring. He's spending the summer in Delaware working on several of Carroll's research projects. He plans to prepare two articles based on his thesis for submission to a scholarly journal. He's also helping Carroll review the results of other recent graduate research and organize them for publication.

This fall he'll continue his studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, working toward a Ph.D. in plant pathology and international agriculture. His experiences with the farmers of Boquete will no doubt add meaning to those studies.

Cherry crops have ups and downs

HARRISBURG — Tart cherry production in Pennsylvania is estimated at eight million pounds, up 43 percent from last year's crop of 5.6 million pounds, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Pennsylvania sweet cherry production is estimated at 400 tons, down 43 percent from the 1980 crop of 700 tons.

Average date of full bloom for Pennsylvania tart cherries was April 23 compared with May 5 a year ago. There was a good bloom but low night temperatures resulted in locally light to heavy freeze damage.

Average date of full bloom for

sweet cherries across the state was April 18 compared with April 29 a year ago. A week or so of unseasonably hot weather brought on the early bloom and then night temperatures in the 20's caused heavy freeze damage.

Harvest of tart cherries is expected to begin this week. Tart cherry production nationwide is forecast at 142 million pounds, a 35 percent decrease from last year and 17 percent below 1979.

Harvest of sweet cherries began June 26. A sweet cherry crop of 139 thousand tons is forecast nationwide, 19 percent less than a year ago and the smallest sweet cherry crop since 1972.

DO YOU STILL HAVE THE BLUES FROM:

1. Last Winter's Heating Costs!
2. Thought Of Air Conditioning Bills To Come!
3. Buildings With No Air Circulation!
4. Mildew And Stale Air!

AGRI-EQUIPMENT HAS THE LOW COST ANSWER: ENVIRO-FAN CEILING FANS

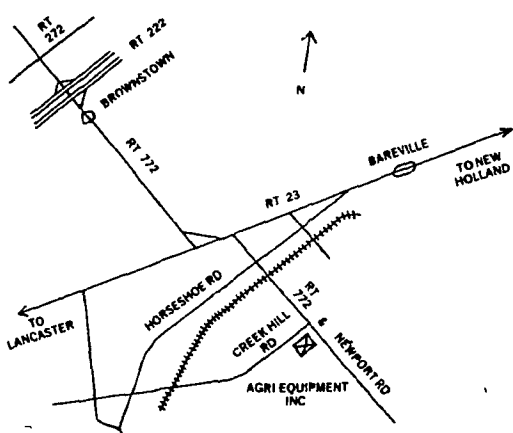


Applications:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Poultry houses | Confinement buildings |
| Dairy barns | Livestock buildings |
| Milking parlors | Processing plants |
| Storage buildings | Warehouses |
| Greenhouses | Machine shops |
| Office areas | Homes |
| | Churches |

Fan Carries a Five-Year Warranty and Features:

- Sealed chrome steel ball bearings
- Totally enclosed motor, special moisture resistant silicone treated
- No maintenance
- Displaces 24,000 cubic feet of air per minute (CFM)
- Solid state infinite speed controls
- Uses less energy than 40W bulb at low-speed
- 15 amp circuit runs up to 13 fans
- Easy installation, just mount and plug in 32" cord. Completely assembled (except blades)
- All metal construction — 60" diameter blade sweep
- Effective up to 60 ft. ceiling height
- Aerodynamically designed blades for maximum air delivery
- Down rods available in 10" lengths
- Fans and controls are warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship at the time of shipment from the factory and for a period of five years.



CATTLE — HOG — POULTRY EQUIPMENT
2754 CREEK HILL RD., LEOLA, PA 17540
PHONE: 717-656-4151

★ SERVING PA, N.J. and N.Y.

STORE HOURS:
 Mon.-Fri. - 7:30 to 5:00
 Saturday - 7:30 to 11:30