

Poultry manure comes to the rescue for profits

DEKALB, Ill. — Manure problems can pile up fast on today's modern poultry farms. In fact, 750,000 hens can produce up to 650 tons of manure in a week. And that's not a problem you can simply scrape off your shoes.

But poultry farmers have always known the value of animal droppings and it was only a matter of time before one of them figured out a way to turn problems into profit.

Joseph Brill was that man. Brill is a full time poultry farm manager and part time inventor from Snover, Michigan. Back in 1969, he began tinkering with ways to make use of poultry manure. After talking with a biochemist, he felt that aerobic digestion was the best way to go.

Aerobic digestion is the breaking down of a substance by bacterial action. Brill thought he could use this phenomena to his advantage in converting poultry manure into a marketable commodity. Finally, after eight years of experimenting, he got the digester to work.

The Brill Digester consists of two boxes, each about seven feet wide and four feet deep. The first box carries out the digestion process. It is loaded with manure and a carbon-based material like wood shavings, sawdust or chopped corn cobs.

Large paddle wheels driven by electric motors churn the mixture and begin the digestion. The process heats the mixture to 150 degrees - 170 degrees Fahrenheit killing most pathogens and weed seeds within. It also evaporates most of the moisture and gets rid of any unpleasant odor.

Once the mixture is digested, it is then transferred to the second box where it is more thoroughly spin dried. Once dried, it is ready to be packaged and marketed. The digestion takes only 48 hours and if the farmer has a ready supply of straw or sawdust, the cost of processing is only the cost of the electricity to run the motors. The digested poultry manure has the

consistency of peat with an earthy aroma.

Already there has been an explosion of interest in the machines. Cattle farmers are interested in the product as a supplement for their cattle feed due to its high nutrient value. Nearly 40 percent of the nutrients of chicken feed pass through the bird.

Grain farmers are also interested. Digested poultry manure is in high stability nitrogen and makes a good fertilizer for crops when spread on top of the ground.

Many poultry producers claim the value of digested poultry manure will be their salvation. Over the last 26 months egg prices have been below the cost of

production and the industry has seen a shake-out never experienced before.

"The Brill Digester has some producers feeling the real profit potential from their birds is in manure produced and not in the eggs, reports John R.E. Taylor, head of Agri-Products, the poultry division, DeKalb AgResearch, Inc.

What's the pesticide's shelf life

MEDIA — With cold weather approaching, the use of pesticides is diminishing and you will soon store leftover pesticides for the winter.

Pesticides should be stored so that they will not contaminate food, animals or fertilizer. These are toxic substances and special care should be exercised in the handling and storage of them.

The following are some suggestions for safe storage:

Be sure that caps are tightened

securely on all bottles and cans. Eliminate leaky containers.

Do not store weed killers close to other materials such as wettable powders, dust formulations or granular insecticides. Some weed killers, such as 2,4D and 2,4,5-T are highly volatile substances and can contaminate other materials especially when confined in close quarters.

Store wettable powders, dusts and granules of pesticide products in a cool, dry place.

Do not store liquid pesticides in a place where the temperature will fall below 40° Fahrenheit. Too low temperature may result in a breakdown of liquid material, and if the liquid should freeze, there is danger that the glass containers will break.

Do not carry over pesticide products whose labels have been lost or are not complete and legible.

Above all, keep pesticide materials in a locked room or cabinet and out of reach of children and animals.

Glass bottles should always be stored within a metal can, not necessarily closeable, such as a coffee can. In the event the bottle breaks the spillage will be contained.



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Simplicity Manure Tankers

In manure spreader-tankers, you don't want a lot of moving parts to break down. Just a paddle fan like a silo filling blower to force the manure out the pipe over the top against the rear baffle for even coverage on your fields. You want a strong chassis with large dual wheels to get you from pit to field safely.

Easy-Unload Silage Carts

In silage carts, you want more capacity from the same size box. No augers or beaters to take up space and get clogged. You want just a kick-wheel to unload tough silage evenly from either side of the cart. You want to turn the cart on a dime. Ride from your silo to any feed bunk on the farm.

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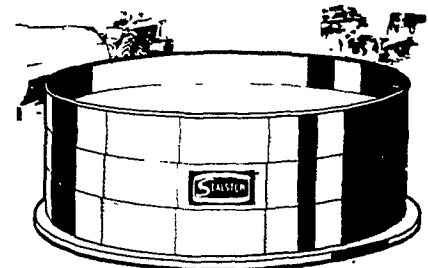
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