

Stray voltage

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be possible to suffer from stray voltage problems? According to Matson, the answer to this question would be an emphatic "yes". He explained that stray voltage can travel for miles through ground water aquifers and old mine tunnels.

Even though Matson, McCurdy and Fetrow had answers for many of the questions concerning stray voltage, they all admitted there is an urgent need for more research and understanding.

In an effort to stride forward in a cooperative manner, State Grange Master Wismer appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities of additional funding and stray voltage research. Committee members include: Ben Slick, Grange Energy committee; Neil Buss, Senate ag staff; Jack Gray, House ag staff; Fred Wertz, Pa. Dept. of Ag; Bruce Moyer, REA; and Bob Pardo, dairy co-ops. Their first official meeting will be held next Thursday at the REA building in Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG — Excessive soil compaction can result in reduced crop yields and can increase erosion, reports Joel Myers of the Soil Conservation Service in Dauphin County.

Myers indicates that excessive soil compaction results from travel on the field when soils are too wet. He cites manure spreading in early spring as a common example.

"During the winter months soil structure is improved by freezing and thawing conditions; however,

Soil compaction reduces yields, increases erosion

these beneficial effects are often lost due to excessive travel on the fields, especially in early spring," he says.

Conservation tillage can help by reducing the number of trips over the field. These reductions in tillage also aid in making soils less susceptible to compaction and rutting in the fall when harvesting crops, Myers notes.

Myers stresses that as compaction increases, infiltration of moisture decreases. This results in two areas of concern. First, if infiltration decreases, less moisture is available to crops during the growing season. Secondly, increases in runoff result from decreased in-

filtrations.

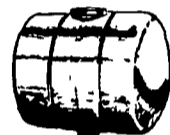
"The obvious result of increased runoff is increase in sheet and rill erosion on cropland," says Myers. "Also, gullies are more likely to form where surface water becomes concentrated."

Another factor reflected by recent research shows that with increased compaction, energy requirements for tillage can be increased significantly. This is especially true where a plow or chisel are the primary tillage operations. The resulting condition of soil tilled after compaction can increase the difficulty of preparing an adequate seed bed for spring planting.

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