

Educator links weather modification to natural disasters

BY GINGER SECRIST MYERS
Staff Correspondent

KAUFFMANS STATION — "No one can make it rain. Rainmaking is not synonymous with cloud seeding," stressed Edmund R. Hill, professor of Economic Statistics and Geography at Gettysburg College during last Friday's meeting of the Tri-State Natural Weather Association, Inc.

"Cloud seeding may cause slight rain," he explained, "but it has been proven in most cases to significantly reduce the incidence of rain. This is part of weather modification which uses chemicals

and mechanical means to manipulate the weather."

Hill, who has served for eight years on the Pennsylvania State Weather Modification Control Board, outlined how, why, and who is involved in weather manipulation. Considered an expert spokesman in the field, he has presented testimony and evidence on the controversial subject to various congressional committees and government agencies.

The college professor confessed that he has been converted from "skeptical" to "firm believer" in the possibilities of weather

modification. He cited examples of weather extremes, which he called 100-year incidences, occurring all within the last three decades. This time period, he said, coincides with the advent of active weather modification. He also noted examples of a declining improvement in the accuracy of weather forecasting during the same period.

"What has happened to our weather forecasting?" he questioned. "Why has forecasting lagged when there has been tremendous improvement in the hardware involved?"

Hill firmly stated that "big money" has infiltrated the weather modification industry pulling with it the clout of government agencies, the chemical industry, specialized agricultural interests, the insurance industry, and even the military which is investigating weather warfare. He remarked that few people have questioned the practices of weather modification because those involved have projected a purely positive image of their practices to the public.

At the present time, Hill stated, there is no effective governmental regulations controlling cloud seeding. From his own past experience on the State Weather Modification Control Board, Hill summarized, "After eight years on the Board, I saw nothing happen. We were always told that there were no appropriations available."

Reading conflicting information from university sources, the Dept. of Environmental Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency, Hill admonished the use of AGI, silver iodide, the chemical



Paul Hoke, left, president of Tri-State Natural Weather Association, Inc., poses with Edmund R. Hill, Gettysburg College, vice president of the Association. Hill presented an overview of weather modification and its hazards to more than 100 concerned individuals gathered at Kauffmans Station last Friday.

CCC offers powder to processors

HARRISBURG — According to a recent report from the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, the Commodity Credit Corporation is offering donated powder to processors for use in fluid milk products sold to schools and charitable institutions.

The program is administered by the Bureau of Government Donated Foods, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. A requirement of the program is that the value of the powder used be passed on to the purchaser.

Any milk dealer participating in this program in Pennsylvania, must bid or sell all controlled products at the established minimum prices. Before passing on the value of the powder utilized, the dealer must have the prior written approval of the Milk Marketing Board.

Any school or institution requesting delivery of fortified products under this program, must clearly indicate so to all prospective suppliers on a bid form or otherwise.

used in cloud seeding, for its long-term hazardous effects to both man and the environment. Silver iodide is introduced into the atmosphere by either ground generators or from aircraft, according to Hill.

He explained that, while small amounts of this compound released into the atmosphere may cause rain, if too much is used the result is no precipitation. Hill also pointed out that silver iodide can cause lightning suppression and the lightning is a natural nitrogen

source.

The professor also outlined a number of governmental weather modification programs and their geographic scope. One such project, Project Skywater, had a projected cost of \$800 million in 1969, according to Hill's sources. He summarized that therefore, "When one considers the extent of weather modification and at the same time there has been one natural disaster after another, you should be inclined to feel that the two must be related."



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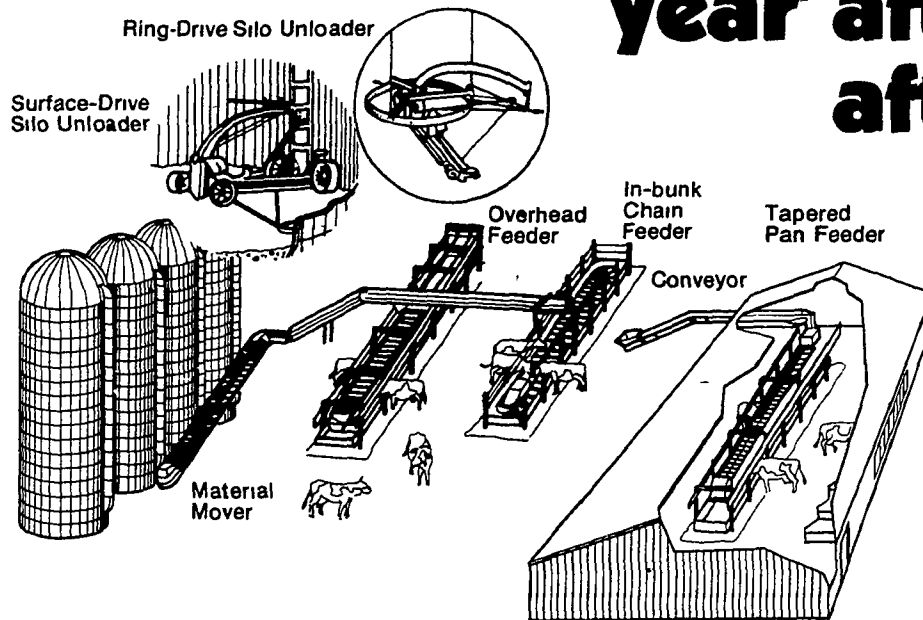
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