

Storing manure saves money

CHAMBERSBURG — Winter is a difficult season of the year for farmers to properly use manure from their livestock operations. Some farmers are storing their manure until the spring growing

season when plants can better utilize the nutrients from the manure, states John Akers, district conservationist at the Chambersburg office of the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service.

"A typical dairy cow can produce up to 21 tons of manure in a year's time so that a farmer who has 100 cows has 2100 tons of manure to handle in a year," says Akers. "By storing the manure and putting it on the fields twice a year, the nutrient value of this manure is worth \$50 per cow per year as compared with \$25 value per cow per year when manure is hauled

daily.

For a dairy farmer with 100 cows who stores the manure, there is a savings of \$2,500 per year, states Akers. Of course, the farmer has to figure out the cost of building a manure storage structure and what additional equipment may be needed to handle the manure by spreading it twice a year.

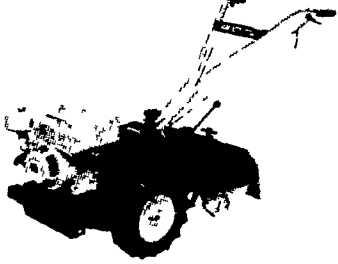
"A manure storage system has additional benefits", says Akers, "such as not having to spread manure on cold, snowy days, eliminating soil compaction by not having to be on fields when they are wet."

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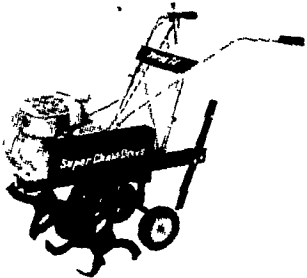
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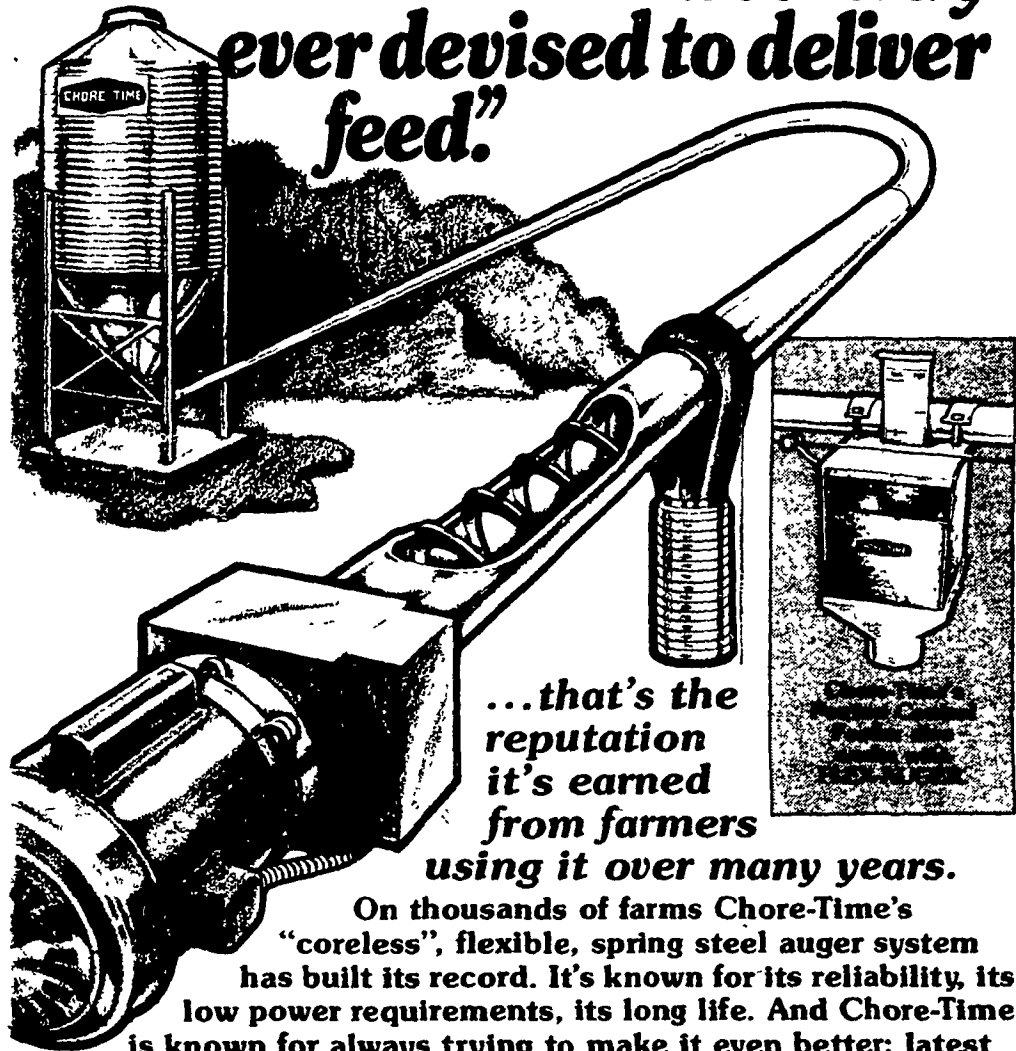
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