

Rep. George prides committee with DER action

HARRISBURG — The chairman of the House Conservation Committee said Wednesday that he believes recent major enforcement actions by the Department of Environmental Resources would not have occurred if his committee had not been investigating the department.

State Rep. Camille "Bud" George, (D-Clearfield) noted that DER had issued a closure order to the Strasburg landfill in Chester County and has pressed for a reply

to an unanswered DER letter to the Chrin landfill in Northampton County.

George pointed out that a citizens' group in Chester County had attempted in vain to have DER enforce environmental laws at the Strasburg landfill, but that shortly after the group met with him and members of his committee in Harrisburg, the department moved in and ordered the landfill closed.

"I'm sure that DER officials will

say that they were preparing to close the Chester County landfill before our committee began its probe," George said, "but it's just too much of a coincidence that a citizens' group had been pressing for such action for several years without success until they told DER they had asked for the Conservation Committee's assistance."

The Clearfield County democrat also said that testimony by a DER official at hearings in Easton

revealed that the department had not had a reply to a 1981 letter requesting the owners of the Chrin landfill to document which of 85 loads of industrial waste had not been accepted at the site.

"I wrote to Secretary Nick DeBenedictis three times in the last month asking whether or not the department was going to insist on a reply to the letter," George said, "and finally, I received an answer from DER telling me that they have informed the owners of the Chrin landfill that no decision would be made on the landfill's pending application for expansion until they provided the information requested in the 1981 letter."

"They also told me they requested Chrin's consultant to provide a closure plan adequate to deal with those industrial wastes against the possibility that all or part of them were actually deposited in the landfill," he continued.

George said he is certain the Chrin action would never have taken place had the committee not brought out what he said was DER's "total mismanagement of

the Chrin case."

"They had written a very serious letter to Chrin, listing 85 tankerloads of industrial waste documented by manifests from the states of Massachusetts and New Jersey," he said, "and they were content to let the landfill operate without even a slap on the wrist even though more than a year and a half had passed without even the hint of a reply."

At the same time, George pointed out that DER was well aware that an investigation by the state attorney general into the alleged dumping revealed that a receiving attendant at the landfill had admitted signing the manifests.

"I am extremely pleased that DER has adopted an enforcement mode," he said, "but I am very much concerned about two items — how many more Chrins and Strasburgs are there throughout the state that are being ignored by the department; and will the department continue to enforce the environmental laws as vigorously once the committee has concluded its investigation?"

Livestock market and auction news

Belleville Livestock

Belleville, Pa.

Thursday, June 29

Report Supplied By PDA

CATTLE 125. Compared with last Wednesday's market, slaughter cows \$1.75-\$3.25 lower. Individual Standard slaughter steer at 49.10. Utility & Commercial slaughter cows 43.75-46.50, couple 49.60, Cutters 40.00-42.75, Canner & Low Cutters 38.00-40.50, Shells down to 33.00. Few Yield Grade #1 950-1400 lbs. slaughter bulls 49.75-52.85.

CALVES 176. Few Good and Choice vealers 60.00-66.00, Standard & Good 75-110 lbs. 45.00-54.00, few Utility 50-90 lbs. 36.00-40.00. Farm Calves: Holstein Bulls 90-125 lbs. 58.00-78.00, couple 81.00; few Holstein Heifers 85-120 lbs. 55.00-103.00.

HOGS 228. Barrows and gilts steady to 75 cents lower. US No. 1-2 210-235 lbs. barrows and gilts 45.85-46.00, No. 1-3 2-250 lbs. 44.00-45.85, No. 2-3 240-275 lbs. 38.75-43.85, No. 1-3 175-185 lbs. 39.00-42.75. Few US

No. 1-3 540-735 lbs. sows 28.50-33.00. Few Boars 28.50-32.75.

FEEDER PIGS 269. US No. 1-3 20-35 lbs. feeder pigs 20.50-34 per head, No. 1-3 35-55 lbs. 32.00-43 per head.

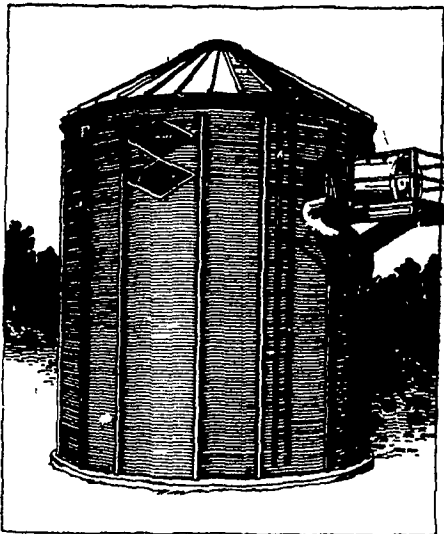
SHEEP 105. Good and Choice 50-100 lbs. spring slaughter lambs 39.00-47.00, few Utility 50-75 lbs. 28.00-35.90. Slaughter ewes 12.00-19.00. **GOATS** 25: Large 16.00-33.00 per head, Kids 15.00-21.00 per head. **HOLSTEIN DAIRY COWS** \$660-1040, COUPLE 1275 PER HEAD.



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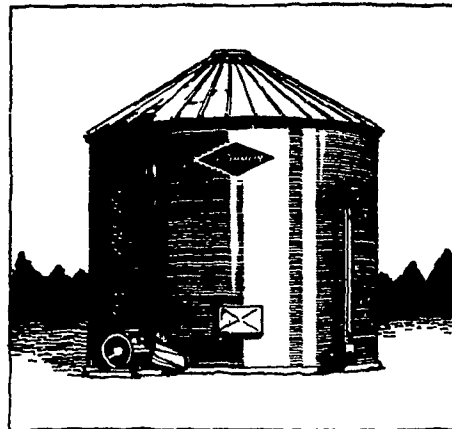
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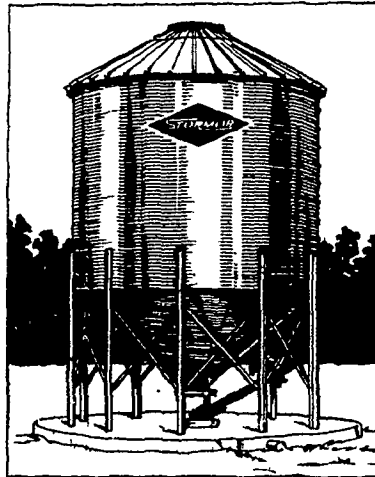
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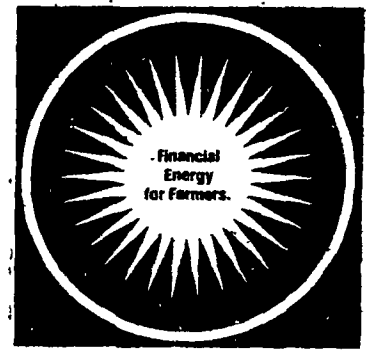
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