

At silage-making time

The sights, smells and thoughts of drought



In some corn fields, the plants are not as stunted, but ears show little kernel development.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER — It's corn chopping time — an annual benchmark in an agricultural year, particularly for a dairy farmer.

This is usually a time of fulfillment as a season of growth is harvested and put into storage for a season of feeding.

Typically as you steer down the rows and occasionally glance back to watch the mixture being blown into the wagon, your thoughts drift back to the time the seed went into the ground and slip forward to the coming cold winter mornings you'll walk into that warm barn to feed some of what you're chopping.

But this is not a typical year. It's quite a bit different from most any year you can remember.

Here are some sights, sounds and thoughts of what might be a typical dairyman as he pulls the tractor, chopper and wagon into his drought-stunted fields, particularly in southcentral and southeastern Pennsylvania.

The first thing that hits you as you pull into the fields is how far you can see. There's nothing to even partially block your vision. You got to stretch out and really crane the neck down to even see what you're chopping.

The sun always hangs low on the horizon on the mornings of silage-making time. There were years the sun shimmered and danced through the tassels that were about eye level as you moved through the rows. But not this year. In some spots, you even have to look to find

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Other sections of fields have corn plants less than three feet tall, but ears show more normal kernel development.

B

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
ANNAPOLIS — As Maryland launched a Bottle Bill Walk at the state this week, legislation requiring mandatory deposits throwaway beverage containers was making news in both York and Pennsylvania.

In Maryland, one group of environmentalists left the Virginia state line on Wednesday headed for Annapolis. A second group leaves Ocean City on Saturday for the state capital and a rally on October 1.

In New York, a return container law went into effect Monday. With annual sales of 1 billion containers a year, New York by far has been the leader in container state among the states with a mandatory five-cent deposit.

And in Pennsylvania, where legislation has been introduced, momentum is reported to be building in favor of the proposed law for the Commonwealth. A number of legislators, particularly from rural areas, report the bill is uppermost in the minds of many constituents. And back in organized farm groups is creating, too.

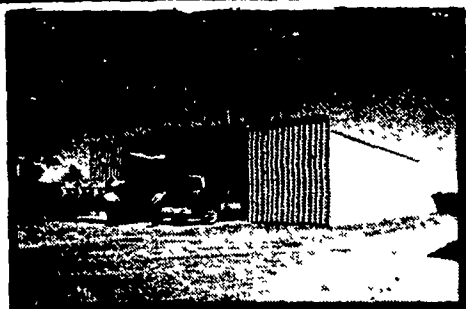
The Maryland Bottle Bill Walk is being sponsored by Citi Against Waste, a coalition of environmental groups established to push for a bottle deposit law.

As has happened in all states, Maryland's coalition is bucking a powerful anti-bottle bill which includes beverage manufacturers, the glass and industries, store chains and organized labor in these industries.

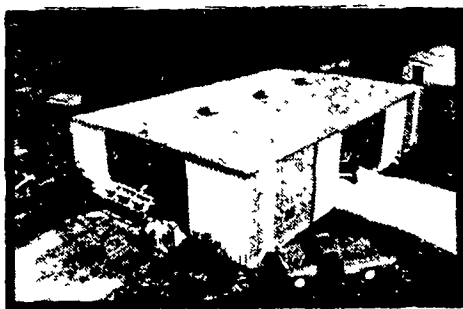
This lobby group claims that bottle bills have cost jobs, increased

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