

# Conference looks at manure as resource, not waste

**BY TRISH WILLIAMS**  
LANCASTER — Under today's economic conditions with in-

creasing fertilizer costs, the value of manure needs to be reconsidered. Manure can no longer be

considered a waste just to be gotten rid of, but should be looked at as a valuable resource to be

used wisely.

This is the message Douglas Beegle, Penn State agronomist, told farmers in a series of regional manure conferences held this week in southeastern Pennsylvania. A panel of five agronomist and ag engineers, presented the conference Tuesday in Lancaster, Wednesday in Carlisle and on Thursday in Lebanon.

Beegle talked about the new Extension Manure Analysis Pilot Program. This program is being conducted to provide a needed service to Pennsylvania farmers and to provide information necessary in developing improved manure management practices for the state.

"At today's prices a typical 12 ton per acre application of dairy manure can contain around \$40 worth of available plant nutrients," said Beegle. "Not many farmers can afford to overlook this. A manure analysis used with vital soil test information should be an important



**Penn State Agronomist, Douglas Beegle, told farmers about a new manure analysis program available in Penna.**

aid to the farmer in developing a manure management program to take advantage of this valuable resource on his farm.

"Manure analysis can also play an important role in helping farmers avoid the serious problem of creating nutrient imbalances in their soils. This problem arises from the indiscriminant spreading of high rates of manure on farmland and is especially critical with poultry manure which has a high nutrient content. Monitoring soils through soil testing where manure is spread will also help the farmer avoid these nutrient imbalances," the agronomist advised.

Beegle distributed a copy of the Manure Sample Information sheet being used in the pilot program. The sheet provides information on the program and instructions for collecting a sample.

The availability of nutrients, especially nitrogen, from manure, (Turn to Page A37)



Commercial exhibitors provided conference goers with a wealth of information and literature on the latest manure handling systems.

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Jimmy Landis with his steer purchased by Hamilton Bank at the Southeast District 4-H Baby Beef Show in November 1983 and donated to the Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef and Sheep Club Banquet conducted on February 2 at the Farm and Home Center With Jimmy is Darwin E. Boyd, Vice President and Director of the Hamilton Bank Agri-Finance Department Jimmy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Landis, R.D. #2, Cedar Hill Road, Quarryville, Lancaster County



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