

Chester begins Chesapeake studies

WEST CHESTER — Directors of the Chester County Conservation District reelected officers, voted to continue support of rental of no-till planting equipment and heard agency reports at their first meeting of 1984 recently.

Officers reelected were Harold R. Kulp, Pottstown, chairman; Jenny Russell, Lewisville, vice chairman; and Robert Struble, Jr., West Chester, secretary-treasurer.

Mark Stutman, Lewisville, gave a summary of his work at Algal Virus Research Labs. The Lab has completed water quality studies for the District. Much of his work has been on the Red & White Clay Creeks, the Elks Creeks and the Octararra Creek. These streams feed into Chesapeake Bay.

He said that viral analysis in-

dicates that these streams have assimilated any nutrient pollution from compost wharves and mushroom growing in the respective watersheds. Marjorie Kraus, Director of Research at Algal Virus Research Labs. Stutman and Jenny Russell have recently been appointed to a research committee investigating Chesapeake Bay pollution. He is also preparing a study comparing monitoring techniques for the streams.

Directors agreed to support any machinery dealer in the county who made no-till planting equipment available for rental this year. Stoltzfus Farm Service, Cochranville, had made available a no-till corn planter last year. Nearly 300 acres of no-till corn was

planted in 1983 by farmers who were trying the system for the first time.

Joan Morrisey, District Secretary recently made a telephone survey of some of the users. She told Directors that nearly all of the users contacted were pleased with their results. They indicated that corn planted no-till last year, did as well as, and in a few cases, better, than corn planted with conventional tillage.

Kulp relayed a message of appreciation to the Directors from a landowner who had been receiving damaging run-off from the Turnpike. The farmer had been unable to crop several acres because of the run-off. The District interceded. Turnpike crews corrected the problem to the satisfaction of the farmers.

The District has a small supply of Crown Vetch seed on hand. It will be made available at reduced cost to municipalities and individuals who will use it for establishing vegetative cover.

The District is offering a checklist for renters and landowners as an aid in working out a rental or lease agreement that encourages increased use of conservation practices on rented land. A copy of the checklist may be obtained by writing the District, 235 W. Market St., West Chester, Pa. 19381.

Directors accepted the following landowners as Cooperators with the District. They are eligible for the services of the S.C.S., U.S.D.A Technicians. Amos K. Lapp, Lower Oxford Twp.; Frank J. Batchelor and Hal E. Snedden, W. Vincent Twp.; Eva Foster, Westtown Twp.; Rebecca A. Wax, Oxford Twp.; J.M. Willard, Kennett Twp., and William H. Ingram, Uwchlan Twp.

Chester Dairy Day

(Continued from Page A34)

and lowers conception rate, said O'Conner. Excessive protein can increase the pH of the uterus which diminishes sperm survival and increases embryonic death.

The level of vitamins and minerals fed are also critical with respect to reproduction. In order to maintain healthy tissues in the reproductive tract, it is necessary to feed adequate amounts of calcium, phosphorus, selenium, and vitamin A.

Jack J. Kirkland, Penn State economist, gave a dairy marketing update. He gave brief explanation of how the price support system works.

Chester County DHIA representative, Nelson Stoltzfus, gave a report on the current standing of the state DHIA program. He said that Penn-

sylvania has historically been in the forefront of DHIA in the nation. Recent improvements and planned purchases of equipment for processing samples and records have been an additional cost borne by dairymen, he said. But the investment will result in better meeting the purpose of the program, improved herd management

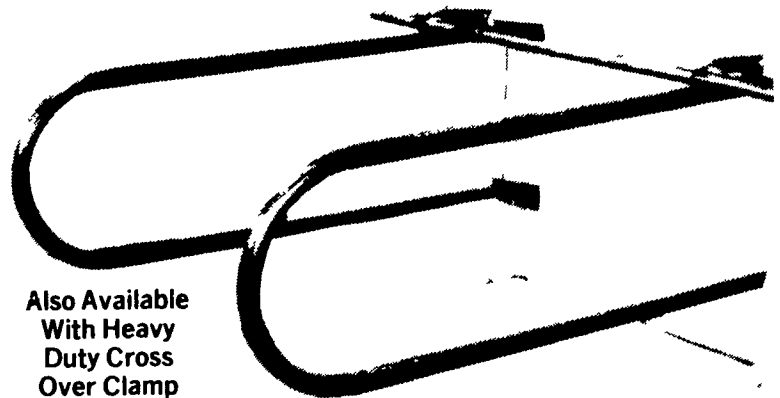
George Lamborn, member of the county dairy promotion committee spoke briefly on the committee's work. A new mobile unit was put together and is being used to promote and sell dairy products at local events. Lamborn asked his fellow dairymen for a financial and time commitment to milk promotion. He encouraged anyone interested in working with the committee or using the mobile unit to contact him.



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