

## Septage conference

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application for permit and the site. He also suggested some other alternatives for septage disposal such as mine land renovation and for establishing vegetative cover on landfills.

Other treatment and disposal options were described by Karen Mancl and Joe Bateman, Mancl, of Penn. State, showed slides of the storage-treatment lagoons and subsurface disposal at Acton, Mass. Acton, a town of 23,000 people, primarily served by septic tanks treats all of the septage at a central facility. Large, shallow paved lagoons store the wastes and discharge the liquid to sand filters. The sludge is mixed with sawdust and then stored in piles to compost for use on road rights of way.

### Farmland permit

Bateman, Valley Forge Regional Treatment Plant Operator, distributed copies of a contract used with septage haulers. Valley

Forge will only accept septage from haulers who have signed a contract and have agreed to assume responsibility for any malfunction created by unpermitted material delivered to the plant. Each hauler must supply evidence of satisfactory liability insurance and a record of the source of each load.

The process of obtaining a farmland utilization permit was described by Richard Fox, Penn. State. He stated, a permit is needed to account for the disposal of wastes, to protect the soil and water, and to help avoid community conflict. Identification of soils, slope, location of the property, consent of the landowner, and the preparation of the application by an engineer were all identified as part of the permit process.

One of the roles of the municipalities is septage management was explained by John Murtha, Chief, Com-

prehensive Planning Unit, 1a DER. Murtha said an on-site Waste Water Management District is a tool that can be used to improve the management of on-lot systems. The municipality assumes responsibility for management by ordinance or persuasion for regular inspection and maintenance of on-site systems. This assures there will be

fewer malfunctions and the expense of a municipal collection and treatment system can be avoided.

In order to improve the process of acquiring a land utilization permit and more uniform enforcement of regulation, John Myers, President of the Pennsylvania Liquid Waste Haulers Association, proposed that all haulers become members to help

lobby for changes in the regulations. Myers explained they have already reviewed the proposed regulations and have submitted their recommendations for changes. Comments by many of the participants at this conference indicated a great need for continuing education and suggested that it become an annual event.

## EDB testing continues

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has released the results of ethylene dibromide (EDB) tests conducted by its Bureau of Foods and Chemistry on 70 grain-based foods March 30 - April 5.

Of the products analyzed, a total of 14 showed detectable levels of the compound. A sample of raw cashew pieces collected in the Pittsburgh area were found to contain an EDB level of 910 parts per billion, exceeding the tolerance level of 30 ppb in ready-to-eat foods established by the Environmental Protection Agency and adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Infinity Warehouse, Inc., the product's distributor, has been notified and the product is being recalled. The cashew pieces are not sold at the retail level. Distribution of the product has

been strictly through food clubs and cooperatives. The Department is advising those organizations who have made recent purchases of the item through the distributor to return them. The Department is monitoring the withdrawal process.

Technicians from the Department's Bureau of Foods and Chemistry will continue testing to ensure consumers that foods marketed in Pennsylvania remain safe to eat. Since mid-January, chemists have tested 845 food, grain and water samples and found detectable levels of EDB in 209. Nine products tested in Pennsylvania have exceeded any of the tolerance levels of 30 ppb in ready-to-eat foods; 150 ppb in intermediate foods or those requiring additional preparation; and 900 parts per billion in raw grain. All have been withdrawn from sale by their manufacturers.

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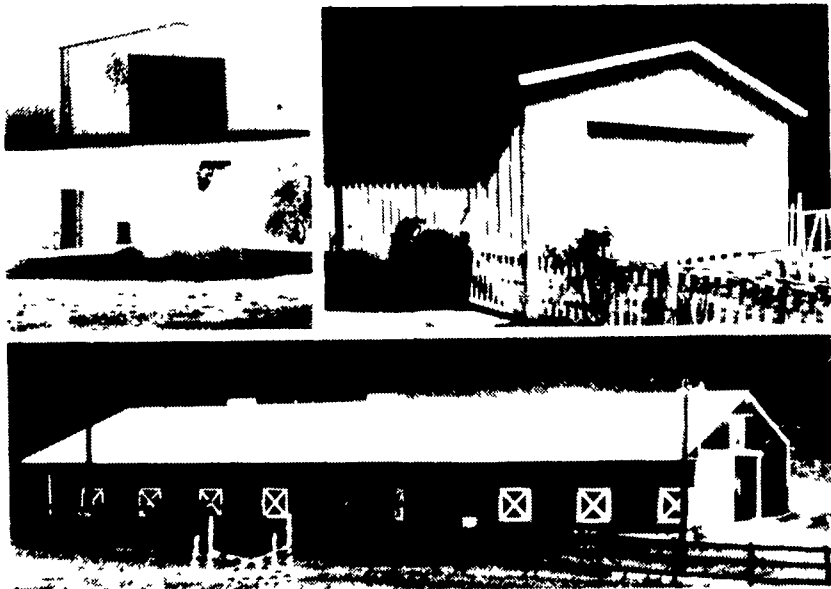
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