

Manure manual under revision

CAMP HILL — A special committee appointed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is now in the process of revamping DER's Manure Management Manual according to committee chairman, William Adams, Director of Natural Resources for the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA).

"The goal of the committee is to review and clarify some of the material already in the manual so it is more understandable to farmers and to expand it to cover previously omitted segments of agriculture such as poultry, swine and veal production," Adams said. The manual was first published in 1974.

According to the chairman, the proposed format is a basic introductory manual plus several technical supplements to be used by farmers for specific types of farming operations and manure handling systems.

"One important aspect of our task will be getting the finished manual to the farmers," Adams said, "If farmers can get the information and educational materials they need to do the job, they can address potential pollution problems themselves without the need for undue government regulations or interference. This process is especially important when we consider the findings of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. This could be the cornerstone in Pennsylvania's attempt to address non-point source pollution."

Following the manual's completion, a statewide effort coordinated by the Cooperative Extension Service will begin to

distribute the material as widely as possible.

In addition to Adams, the committee includes Daniel J. Meyer and Robert E. Graves, Extension Agricultural Engineers at Penn State University; Herbert

C. Jordan, Extension Specialist, Penn State University; Afton Schadel, Chief, Division of Soil Resources and Erosion Control, DER; Warren Lamm, Executive Director, Pa. House Agriculture

Committee; John Spitzer, Conservation Agronomist, Soil Conservation Service; Richard Pennay, Program Specialist, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; William Bowers, Assistant State Engineer.

Soil Conservation Service; Kenneth Walizer, Operation Group Leader, DER; Brenda Burd, Legislative Assistant, Pa. State Conservation Districts.

Timber mgt. book available

ITHACA, N.Y. — Cornell University has published a new handbook for owners of private forests throughout the Northeast. The 56-page, illustrated reference describes all major facets at forest management for timber production.

"Timber Management for Small Woodlands" features a careful explanation of forest management in terms that owners can understand and use.

Few owners capitalize on the full potential value of their forest holdings, claim authors Gary Goff, James Lassoie, and Katherine M. Layer, specialists in natural resources for Cornell Cooperative Extension. They are in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Substantial areas of the Northeast are classified as commercial forest land, yet a relatively small percentage is actively managed for timber production.

Virtually all private forest lands are harvested at some time, as ownership and needs change, thus there is considerable economic justification for good forest management, the authors state.

Without purposeful, long-term management, most timber growth occurs in areas of low productivity

or on low-value trees. Benefits are lost, too, if a timber harvest is unduly delayed, or exploited for maximum short-term profits.

The Cornell authors point out that proper timber management can increase both the growth rate by 50 percent and the harvest market value 4 or 5 times that of an unmanaged stand.

If the present owner does not harvest the timber, the results of wise management should be

reflected in a higher value when ownership is transferred.

Management for timber production can include, and even enhance, other forest values such as wildlife and recreation.

"Timber Management for Small Woodlands" has sections on establishing compartments and boundaries, estimating timber, management of over- and understocked stands, protection against fire and pests, aspects of har-

vesting, sale contracts, and economic and tax considerations.

Appendixes cover useful information such as measures and conversions, tree volume tables, a sample sale contract, use of a scale stick, and sources of assistance for the forest owner.

Copies of "Timber Management for Small Woodlands" (IB-180) are available at \$3.50 each from the Cornell Distribution Center, 7-TM Research Park, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Give milk promotion a chance

UNIVERSITY PARK — An increased advertising and promotion program for dairy products can be helpful to the industry, but dairy farmers must give it a chance to work, says Jack Kirkland, Penn State Extension agricultural economist.

The money for the program will come from a two cent per gallon or 15 cents per hundredweight deduction from the farmer's milk check. This program, part of the Milk Diversion Bill passed in November 1983, began May 1 and should raise 140 million dollars for a nationwide advertising campaign.

The advertising and promotion campaign is regulated by a 36-member board approved by the

Secretary of Agriculture. This board will decide who and what type of product gets the money for advertising.

This advertising campaign will run through August 1985. At that time dairy farmers will vote in a referendum whether or not they want the deduction and advertising campaign to continue.

"One thing they have to remember is that effects of advertising are not immediate," says Kirkland. "The 15-month period may be too short to judge the effectiveness of the advertising. Dairy farmers should bear this in mind when they vote on continuing the national effort."

Depending on how the dairy

farmers vote, much of the 15 cent deduction may stay in Pennsylvania. Local advertising and promotion programs that qualify under the rules of the milk diversion program may receive up to 10 cents of the checkoff. But the dairy farmers must give their authorization before any state program can receive part of this advertising deduction.

Five programs in the state including the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture currently qualify to receive part of the deduction. If all of the non-federal order farmers donate 10 of the 15 cents to the state program, \$1.6 million would be raised for promotion on Pennsylvania.

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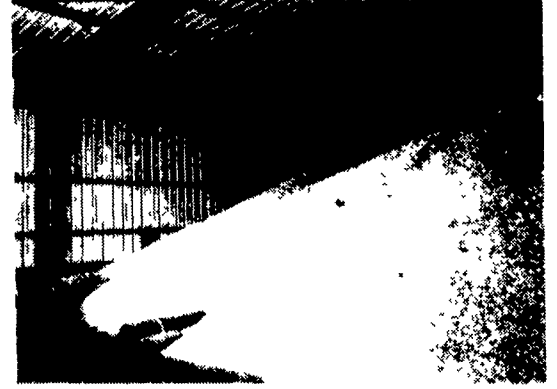
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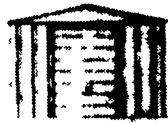


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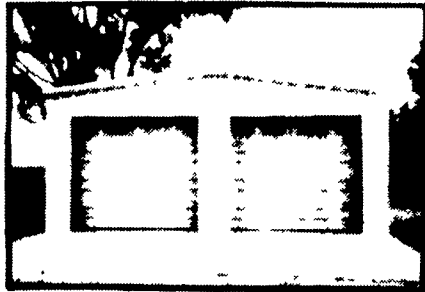


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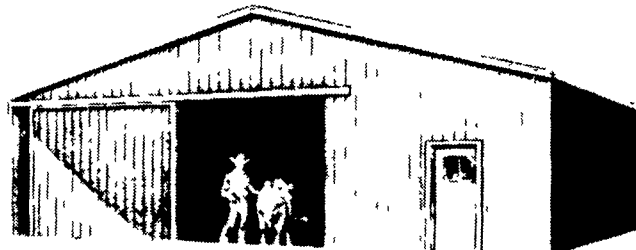


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