

Bay problem

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monitoring wells in Northeastern Lancaster County for two years, explained that "slugs" of nitrates have been found to move down into wells initially within three days of a heavy rainfall after manure applications.

Also, there is a slower movement of nitrates that occurs after about two weeks. Nearby wells also vary according to the lag time for movement of nitrates depending on the type of soil.

Young, of the Economic

Research Service, also has done some studies of the economic feasibility of reducing nutrients.

He has concluded that nutrients can be reduced about 10 percent at a minimum cost to the farmer through changes in cropping practices.

He went on to study reducing nutrients on a farm by 30 percent by transporting excess manure to a place outside the Conestoga Headwaters area.

To reduce nutrients by 30 percent by transporting excess

manure would cost the dairy farmer in his study some 20 percent of his annual net income.

Young summed up his presentation on the economics of reducing nutrients with this statement:

"The solution could cost society hundreds of millions of dollars."

Warren Archibald, of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation Service, who has worked closely with farmers in the federally funded water cleanup pilot project study, gave a report on participation thus far in various Better Management Practices in the Conestoga Headwaters area.

One interesting point he stressed

is that about one-fourth of participation among the largely Amish and Mennonite farmers has been entirely at their own expense. These farmers have refused to sign contracts and have refused matching funds from the federal government to install any BMP's.

The top six BMP's installed to date and the percentages of completions of what is hoped to be done include:

Adopting no-till, 33 percent; stripcropping, 32 percent; waterways, 29 percent; minimum till, 27 percent; diversion systems, 24 percent; and terraces, 19 percent.

Among the lower types of participation he cited were contour farming and fencing off streams.

In addition to the nutrient

pollution of water, the Northeastern Lancaster County study and its extensive monitoring system is also looking at the movement of herbicides, particularly the triazines, into the water supplies.

Among other speakers at the Thursday session were Eugene F. Thompson, chairman of the Pa. State Rural Clean Water Committee; Richard A. Pennay, of the ASCS, Harrisburg; Robert Gregory, of the Lancaster County Conservation District; Ray Brubaker, of the Lancaster County ASCS Office; and Dr. Dale Baker, of Penn State.

The day-long activities were concluded with a TV press conference and a visit to the study area.

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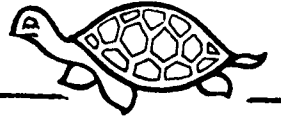
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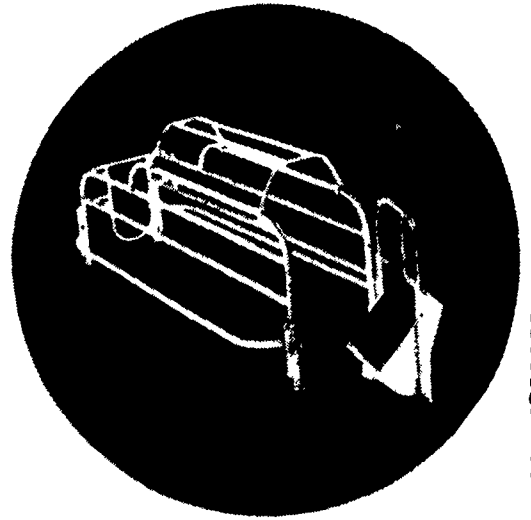
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