

# Cover poultry manure to preserve nutrients

NEWARK, Del. — Periodic cleanout of poultry houses throughout the year results in either stockpiling the manure, or spreading it on open ground. Unfortunately, most of this manure becomes available for spreading at times when its maximum nutrient value can't be put to work. So proper storage is essential to maintain its fertilizer value for crop production.

According to J. Ross Harris, University of Delaware extension specialist in environmental quality, the procedure for proper poultry manure storage is simple and requires little time. Here's how:

- Windrow the manure. It may be beneficial to place two rows side by side if a single row would be longer than 90 feet.

- Strike off the top of the windrow. If two rows exist, fill in the gaps between them. (See figure 1.) Note: This step is important. If it's not done, water will lie in the pockets, and it will be hard to remove the protective plastic cover which goes on next.

- Arrange 6 mil black plastic over the manure and place tires along the top and sides of the windrow, spacing them about 8 to 10 feet apart down the length of the

pile and about 2 to 3 feet apart going across it. Or, using plastic string, tie pairs of tires together and place them across the pile at 8- to 10-foot intervals so connected tires touch the ground on either side of the row for a lacing effect. (This procedure uses fewer tires.)

- Next, place rough-cut 2x4x16-foot timbers (or some other convenient length) along the edges of the plastic, wrapping this around the timbers and securing it with a wide-headed nail such as a roofing or foam board nail. Space timbers at least three feet apart. (See figure 2.)

- When it's time to spread the manure, remove the tires and roll up the plastic from one side to the other. The plastic may then be folded lengthwise and stored at the site until next time. (See figure 3.)

Harris estimates it will cost about \$100 for enough plastic to cover the manure generated in one year in a 20,000-bird broiler house. In Delaware this expense can now be cost-shared with ASCS.

For information on how to use broiler manure profitably for crop production, and for advice on calibrating manure spreaders, farmers are encouraged to consult their county extension agricultural agent.

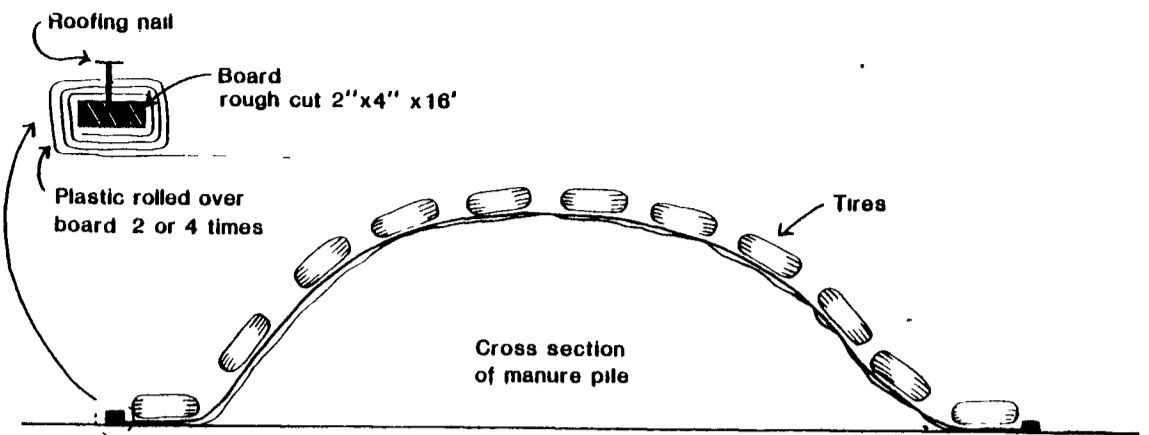
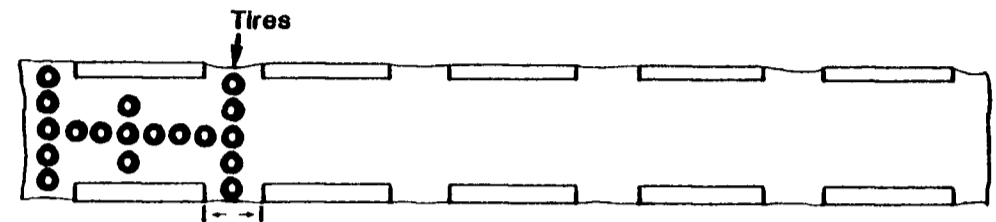
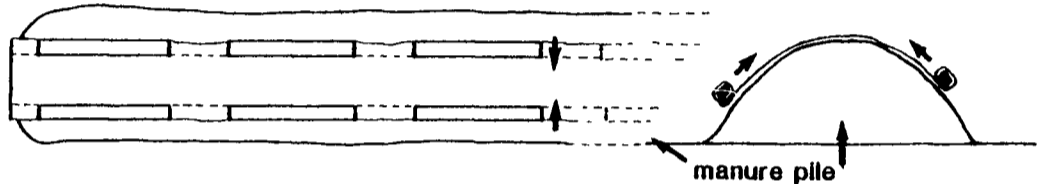


Figure 2



Boards spaced 3'-4' apart

When ready to remove manure, roll up to center from sides



Then fold ends toward middle

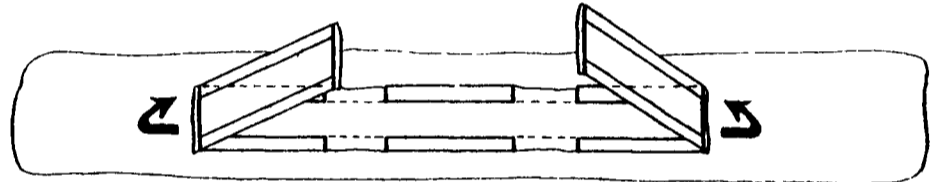


Figure 3

Smooth off top of windows to prevent water pockets from forming and make it easier to handle plastic.



Figure 1

## Angus bull leads New York Bull Test

ITHACA, N.Y. — Reports for the 1984-85 New York Bull Test following the second weigh period of 58 days from Nov. 27-Jan. 21 have been announced by William Greene, director of the Bull Test program.

An Angus bull owned by Berle Farms Co. of Hoosick leads the 86 bulls on the test for this second weigh period. This son of QLC Winchester recorded an average daily gain of 5.31 pounds to lead not only all the bulls on test but also the 29 Angus bull "division".

A Simmental bull owned by Wheatley Farm of Stanfordville currently stands second in this "Class of '85" with an average daily gain of 4.13 pounds for this test period. The young bull is a son of CAF Mr. Ankony 37L and is one of 12 Simmental bulls on the performance test program.

The seven Shorthorn bulls have the highest breed average daily gain, 3.31 pounds per day for this second weigh period. Leading the Shorthorns with an average daily gain of 3.91 pounds is a son of Sangamon Irish Plumber owned by Stony Brook Farms of Locke.

There are 21 Polled Hereford bulls on the current test program. Leading this breed for an average daily gain and a contender for top test honors is the entry by Sycamore Acres of Trumansburg. This son of EF Victor 212 25P has a score of 3.94 average daily gain for the second weigh period.

The Charolais bull owned by Meadow View Farm of Frankfort also turned in an average daily gain of 3.94 pounds and leads the nine Charolais bulls on test. He is a son of STC Polled Legacy 502.

The 140 day performance test is

conducted by Cornell University's Livestock Teaching and Research Center at Harford.

Fifty seven breeders from New

York, New Jersey, New England, Virginia, and Pennsylvania are participating in the current Bull Test which is jointly sponsored by

the New York Beef Cattlemen's Association, Cornell University, Cooperative Extension, and the State Department of Ag &

Markets.

The Bull Test program will be culminated with the Bull Test Sale May 3, at Ithaca.

## USDA seeks comments on embryo import proposal

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The public has until June 15 to comment on a U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal to establish regulations for importing livestock embryos into the United States.

"The proposal, published Oct. 22, generated such great interest that we are extending the comment period beyond the original Dec. 21 closing date," said Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

He said the agency also intends to hold a public hearing on the issue and will announce details at a later date.

"Until now," Hawkins said, "our import regulations have dealt only with live animals, animal products and semen. Because there were no provisions for embryos, they could not be imported into this country."

"Embryo transfer is growing in popularity in the livestock industry," he said. "Animal embryos can be collected and frozen in one country, shipped to another and implanted in animals there."

To bring such embryos into the United States, importers would have to obtain a permit from USDA, according to the proposal. Permits would be issued only for embryos conceived in countries that do not have foot-and-mouth disease.

Hawkins said the collection

procedures would be approved and supervised by government veterinarians in the country of origin.

Comments may be sent to T.O. Gessel, Regulatory Coordination Staff, APHIS, USDA, 728 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Notice of this action is scheduled for publication in the Jan. 14 Federal Register.

## APHA hosts 62nd National Show

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Drawing international acclaim to the breed, the 62nd National Polled Hereford Convention-Show-Sale was the highlight of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 23-26.

Polled Hereford breeders from Maine to California and Texas to Canada participated in a full slate of events that included the impressive 436-head National Show, the National Sale, a Beef Industry Awareness Seminar and the annual American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) awards banquet.

Inducted into the Polled Hereford Hall of Fame during special ceremonies were George C. Palmer II, Charlottesville, Va.; and Harry Schooley and his father, the late P.M. Schooley of West Liberty, Iowa.

Assuming the leadership positions for the APHA for the coming year are Board Chairman Dick Franck of Wooden Shoe Farms, Othello, Wash., and Board Vice Chairman Ross Ingram, Circle I Ranch, Water Valley,

Miss.

The winners in the National Show included grand champion bull WAT GK Discovery, a Wild Cat Sundance 7K son, and grand champion female Sara 569R, sired by BT Butler 452M. Discovery is owned by Glenkirk Farms, Maysville, Mo.; Jac's Ranch, Bentonville, Ark.; and C.G. Watson, Wasola, Mo. Sara was exhibited by Beartooth Ranch,

Columbus, Mont.; Split Butte Ranch, Rupert, Idaho; and Mohican Polled Herefords, Glenmont, Ohio.

The culmination of the breed's National activities was the National Polled Hereford Sale where 34½ lots brought \$233,800 to average \$6,777. Bull lots averaged \$6,700, while female lots averaged \$6,866.

## Adams Co. Beef Producers schedule Beef Ball

GETTYSBURG — The Adams County Beef Producers will hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 12, at 7:30 P.M. at the Adams County Extension Office. The speaker will be Walter Jeffers from the Arthur J. Glatfelter Agency in York who will discuss farm insurance and your liability coverage, and answer any questions.

The ninth annual Beef Ball and

Parade of Bulls will be held at the York Springs fire hall on March 30. Music will be supplied by the White Brothers Band, the public is welcome to attend, and more information can be obtained from Mary Grimes at 334-1022.

Membership to the ACBP Association is open to any area beef producers, or anyone interested in the beef industry in Adams County.