

Lebanon Co. Farmer

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construction of some kind of new sewage system.

Now you have every right to say what does this have to do with farming. If those municipalities, as they were installing the new septic systems were planning that septic system to use land application of the sewage using land as the living filter, you'd have a number of positive, beneficial effects. If you spray irrigated that secondary treated water out on farm land and/or woodland using that as your living filter, you'd accomplish several things. First of

all the municipality would not have to use chemicals to destroy all the nutrients on a daily basis. Secondly, you would be preserving the farm land or agricultural land. Here's how. The municipality would have to have a contract with the farmer or the woodland owner to spray that nutrient rich water on his land. The farmer would be compensated for that contract for keeping the land in agriculture and not developing it by the payment in water and the nutrients that are in that water.

Right now we are planting corn. And what farmer wouldn't be ex-

cited if he knew when he went out there and planted his corn that he was going to have a predictable amount of water to make that crop. And in Pennsylvania most of our limitations are because of water. You'd be able to plant and have a much better situation.

The last most important aspect of this procedure is that we will be keeping our water at home. Frankly, I think it is unconscionable that every time you open a spigot in an area that is sewered a few days later the water finds it way into the Delaware Bay or the Chesapeake Bay or the Ohio River. I think that water is a resource that we can no longer afford to export from our area. Yes, if you use land application it will require new management skills to operate. The construction engineer will not be able to take a plan off the shelf, write out some municipality's name and put in another municipality and give it to you. Yes, it will require that engineer to have a knowledge of soils and crops since that will regulate the amount of water and

nutrients that can be applied. But I believe the results will make it worth while.

EPA has done many studies on land application of sewage, but in the studies that they have done, the municipality has physically owned the land. Consequently, in order to keep capital expenditures down, they used the least amount of land to apply the most amount of water. That means that they will be trying to apply four, five even six inches of water a week. Most soil types just simply can't handle six inches of water each week.

Now if you reversed yourself 180 degrees and you sav the

municipality doesn't have to own the land, but can contract with the farmer to use his land for applying the waste water you have a new tool for keeping farmers in business. And you can have more land covered with less water so the program can have the greatest benefit. Right in this area the Borough of Oxford I believe you will find is doing is this type of application and they are doing it very productively. But if we are concerned about water, if we are concerned about preservation of agriculture land, it seems to me that this is an opportunity to put things into place.

St. Louis To Host National Corn Growers Convention

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association will hold its 28th Annual Convention and Expo in St. Louis, Missouri, July 16-18, 1986, at the Clarion Hotel. The 1986 convention is expected to draw corn growers and agribusiness leaders from all over the United States. Management and marketing ideas to aid corn growers in these difficult times will be the main topics of the corn breakout sessions.

Highlights of this year's convention include an expanded trade

show opening July 16, a forum July 17 of former Secretaries of Agriculture Block, Freeman and Hardin, and a special talk to be given by current Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng the morning of July 18.

The convention will conclude with the annual awards banquet the evening of July 18 in honor of the winners in the 1985 NCGA Corn Yield Contest.

For information on registration and the schedule of events, write the National Corn Growers Association, 1000 Executive Parkway, Suite 224, St. Louis, MO 63141 or call 314/275-9915.

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10:00 A.M.

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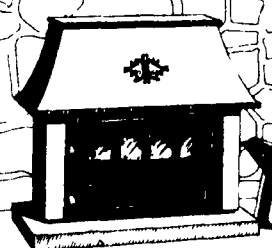
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