

# Groundwater Workshops Set At Three Maryland Locations

Consider these facts:  
About 85 percent of the water supply in Maryland's coastal plain counties is groundwater from wells and other subterranean sources.

The coastal plain area includes 17 of Maryland's 23 counties, bordering both sides of the Chesapeake Bay. This area is experiencing constantly expanding pressures on its fresh water supply due to population growth, increasing use of irrigation on farm

crops, and lack of sufficient rain during the past 1½ years.

Associated with these supply pressures are growing statewide problems of groundwater contamination caused by rusted and abandoned underground storage tanks, improper hazardous waste disposal, insufficient wastewater treatment at municipal sewage plants, and septic tank failures.

Added to this are such regional problems as saltwater intrusion on the Eastern Shore, urban

stormwater runoff in the Baltimore metropolitan area and acid mine drainage in western Maryland.

Is anything being done to protect Maryland's precious groundwater supplies? Yes, planners, public officials, local health officers and civic-minded residents in various municipalities are tackling the problem head-on.

Many of them have been prepared for the job, at least in part, by two sets of daylong

educational meetings, beginning in January 1985, which were sponsored by the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service with assistance from other state agencies.

A third round in this series is now scheduled at three locations across the state during November and early December. It is intended to cover the upper Eastern Shore, central and western Maryland. The second round of meetings, held last May, covered southern Maryland and the lower Eastern Shore.

The new schedule of dates and places is as follows:

Nov. 7— Upper Eastern Shore meeting at Chesapeake College near Wye Mills; room C-203 in Caroline College Center on main campus. Located at junction of U.S. 50 and Highway 213. Registration deadline is Oct. 29.

Nov. 20— Central Maryland meeting in the Holiday Inn at Timonium. Take exit 16A off Interstate Highway 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. Registration deadline is Nov. 11.

Dec. 4— Western Maryland meeting in the Holiday Inn at Cumberland. Take downtown exit 43C off U.S. Highway 48. Registration deadline is Nov. 25.

Each of the three meetings will start with registration and a coffee hour at 8 a.m.; the educational

program will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A \$15 registration fee includes lunch, coffee breaks and printed materials.

Morning sessions essentially will duplicate the programs held in May, reports Dean F. Tuthill, conference coordinator. But the afternoon sessions will cover new topics tailored to each area where the meeting is being held, he said. Dr. Tuthill is an Extension specialist in agricultural and resource economics at the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

Conference brochures, which include a registration form, are available from offices of the university's Cooperative Extension Service in each Maryland county and in Baltimore. Or, you may obtain one by contacting Dr. Tuthill's office in College Park during weekday business hours. The telephone number is (301) 454-3226.

Working with the Extension Service in sponsoring the groundwater education meetings are the University of Maryland's Water Resources Team and Water Resources Research Center, along with the Office of Environmental Programs in the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Partial funding is being provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Gehl Offers New Hydraulic Grinder-Mixers

WEST BEND, Wisc. — Gehl's new model 125 and 170 Mix-All portable grinder mixers are now on line, according to Jim Phillips, Gehl Mix-All product manager. Described as "second generation hydraulic machines," the new models combine the advancements made on all past models with design changes that add convenience and economy, says Phillips.

Features include a mill with 66 cutting hammers for a more uniform grind; continuous recirculation action for thorough blending; hydraulic operation for smooth feeding, fingertip control and fast unloading.

A big advantage of hydraulically-operated feed-making with a Mix-All is reduced maintenance, Phillips notes. Gehl engineers have eliminated many parts that normally cause problems, such as the drive belts, chains and gear clusters on the feeding attachments and loading mechanism.

Model 125 has a capacity of 100 bushels, and model 170 has a capacity of 135 bushels.

For additional information on the new Mix-Alls, contact Richard Burckardt, Gehl Company, West Bend, WI 53095, (414) 334-9461.



Gehl's new grinder-mixers come in 100 and 135-bushel capacities.

## Crop Residue Aids Wildlife

The practice of leaving the residue of the latest crop over winter is helping wildlife in Franklin County. Research is showing that letting crop residue on the surface over the winter months is providing important wildlife benefits, states Robert Hotchkiss, soil conservationist with the Chambersburg office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

On many farms fencerows, windbreaks, bushy draws, and odd areas within and between fields have been cleared to enlarge farming operations. Farm wildlife populations have declined in these areas.

A two-year study in Illinois found 448 more birds per square mile in fields of standing cornstalks than in fall-plowed fields. According to the study, more waste grain is left in the untilled fields. The untilled acreage averaged 384 pounds of waste grain per acre while only 3.3 pounds per acre was left in the fall-plowed land.

With an adequate crop residue left on crop fields, nest sites are dispersed throughout the field. A study in Iowa showed an average of 37 bird nests per 247 acres compared to only 4 nests for the same acreage when the crop residue was plowed under.

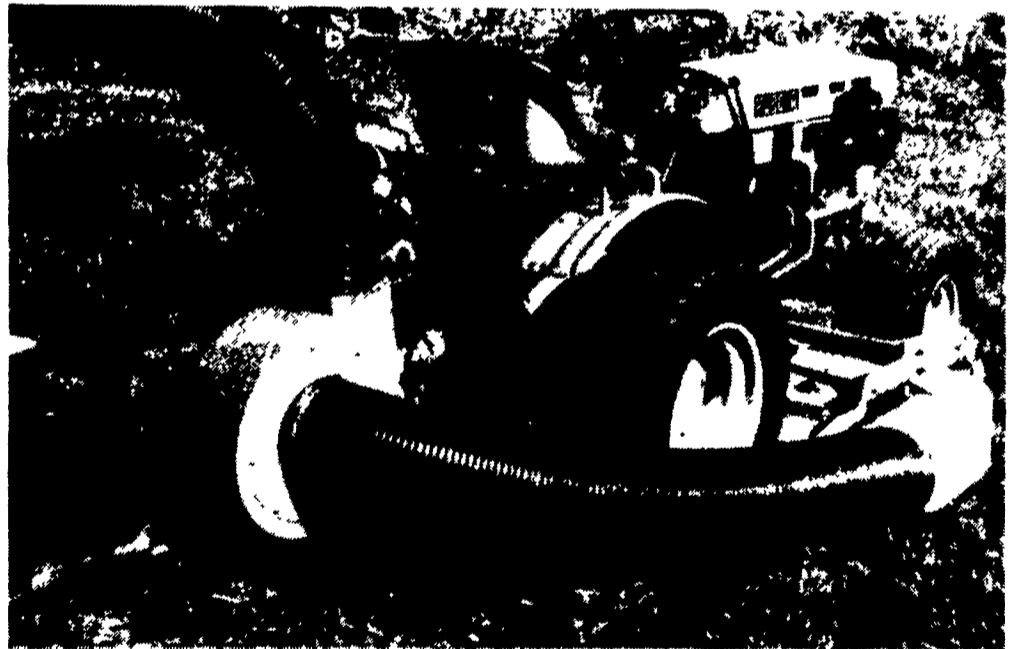
Winter is extremely hard on both wildlife and the soil. When a protective cover is left on the fields, both wildlife and the soil benefits from this crop residue.

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