COLLEGE PARK, Md. – Farmers who apply treated sewage sludge to their soybean fields may reap some benefits, but there are a couple of catches, according to a recent study by The University of Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station. Sewage sludge, say University scientists, may help soybean plants do a better job of

manufacturing their own nitrogen — an important element necessary for plant growth.

And sludge may also help the

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But, says researcher Dr. Scott Angle, "farmers should be sure that the soil is adequately limed to obtain the full potential benefit" of using treated sludge.

"Beneficial results may also be limited to sludges that have low levels of heavy metals, especially when soils are slightly acidic," adds Angle, an assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy. Previous studies show that sludges that are high in heavy metals tend to have a toxic effect on plants grown in them. The toxic effect is compounded when the soils are low in pH, or acidic.

Adds Angle: "Our present study indicates that sewage sludge can have a beneficial influence on soil properties several years beyond the initial sludge application, based on our evidence of increased soybean growth and nitrogen fixation."

Farm Builders

Conference Slated

UNIVERSITY PARK – The sixth annual Pennsylvania Farm Builders Conference will be held on Jan. 27 and 28 at the Kittanning Township Firehall in Kittanning, Pa.

Sponsored by Penn State's Department of Agricultural Engineering and the National Frame Builders Association, the two-day program includes seminars and tours for farm builders, commercial builders and equipment suppliers.

It features presentations by university and consulting agricultural engineers, building material manufacturers, building contractors, energy specialists, professional sales specialists, state code enforcement officers and an insurance representative.

Sixteen speakers will cover topics relating to the theme of commercial markets. Six of these speakers are directly involved in building construction and sales.

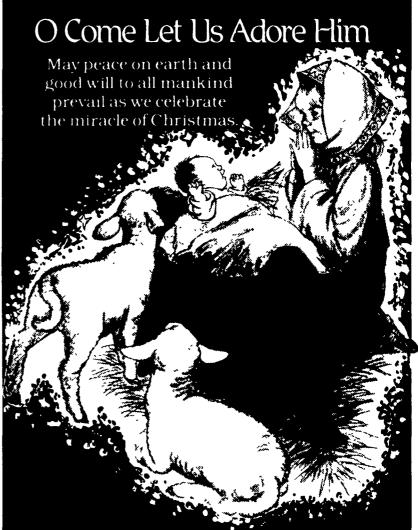
Conference topics include: labor and industry codes for commercial buildings; fire insurance for light frame buildings; experiences in building for commercial markets; the use of fire-retardant lumber; package buildings; putting together a sales presentation; a research update on glue laminated poles; what to expect from a design engineer, and insulation.

A half-day tour will include stops at two dairy farms and four commercial buildings. One farm has installed many innovative features for a stall barn, while the other has several problem situations that need solutions, including overloaded joists, a ventilation inlet problem in the stall barn and reroofing problems on a large turkey barn. Solutions will be discussed. The commercial building stops are at two grocery stores, a residential house and a car wash/convenience store complex.

Well-known advertising executive Stewart Dormod of James Allen Associates in Rochester, Minn., will cover two topics: putting together a sales presentation and "SUCCESS." The latter topic will be covered after the banquet held on Jan. 27.

The program will be held at the Kittanning Township Fire Hall.

For registration and information, contact Daniel Meyer, extension agricultural engineer, at 204 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802, phone (814) 865-7685.



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64	3010	.167 (7 ga.)	23'-10"	'250 to 350
96	4280	.240 (1/4'')	13'- 7"	'250 to 310
96	4723	.240 (1/4'')	16'- 0"	'310 to 370
96	6075	.240 (1/4'')	21'- 4"	'420 to 510
96	7425	.240 (1/4")	26'- 8"	'550 to 650
120	7700	.240 (1/4'')	20'- 3"	'650
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