

# Manure Management

(Continued from Page A1)

Clean water is one of the major priority areas of DER's environmental agenda. Legislation has been introduced that would require all farmers to have nutrient management plans by 1989 and to implement those plans by 1994. In Lancaster County a model ordinance has been developed by the Conservation District for use by local municipalities to require permits for new livestock operations and expansion of existing livestock operations. The basis of these permits would be a satisfactory nutrient management plan which balances the nutrients from manure and fertilizer applied to farmland. The nutrient needs of the particular crop grown on the farmland would be the basis for the

application.

"These initiatives illustrate both the growing recognition that a serious problem exists, and that a resolve to deal with the problem is evident," Swartz said. It is not worthy that improving the relationship between agriculture and environmental regulators was identified as a major objective by a special agricultural task force created by Governor Casey.

"The big problem in Pennsylvania is people," Swartz concluded. "The way that agriculture functions today does not easily integrate with people. You can't farm on one side of the road and have the city on the other side. There are too many problems with odors, dust and chemicals. I honestly believe that the whole problems

boils down to a people problem. The answer is going to come when the rural people decide what they can put up with and still farm, and the other side, the people will decide what they can put up with as far as the farmers are concerned. If they can't hit an accommodation, then the farmers are going."

## MA Animal Welfare

Another speaker on the opening program at the two-day conference was John Bragg, Director of Governmental Relations, Massachusetts Farm Bureau. Bragg discussed the animal welfare situation on the ballot as a referendum in Massachusetts this fall. "Farms are under direct attack," Bragg said. "We have the job of educating 2.5 million Massachusetts voters in the next six weeks. Because of the nature of the wording of this referendum, the question is very

difficult for us to defeat."

Bragg said the question got on the ballot by asking if city-oriented people were in favor of humane treatment of animals. Of course, everyone is. But the implementation of the law, as set forth in the bill, would put livestock farmers out of business.

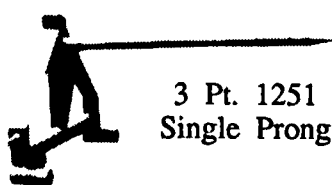
In other discussions in the morning session, Dr. Milton Madison, Associate Professor, Ag Economics, Penn State University, said he was looking for supply and demand to become more equalized in the coming year. But that pressure would be on profits, because of the sharp increase in feed costs. Dr. Madison predicted that last quarter prices for broilers to be 65 cents and to average 70 cents in 1989. He said turkey prices for the fourth quarter would average 80 cents and 75 cents in 1989. For

eggs he expects 75-80 cents average for the last quarter and an average of 70 cents in 1989. The low-cholesterol eggs that are now being advertised and studied by USDA will not have an immediate effect on egg prices in the immediate future because of the time needed to do the testing. But preliminary reports from USDA show that average eggs have 208 mm instead of 275 mm that has been the USDA standard. Fat also is down in the new testing reports, down to 5 grams from 6 grams. "All this will cause a new look at the promotion and advertising of eggs," Madison said.

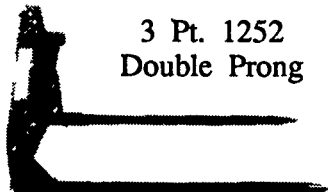
David Feinberg, Area Director, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, discussed the implications of the hourly wage laws as they affect agriculture. William Schlotterbeck chaired the meeting.



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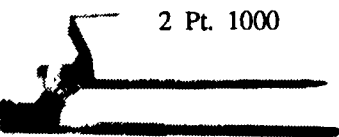
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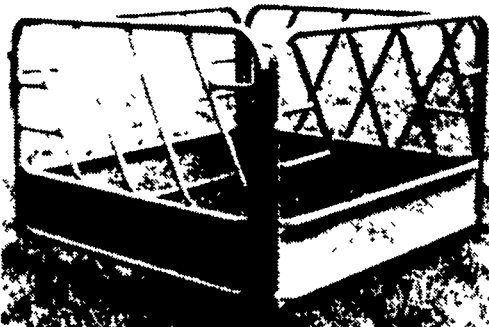
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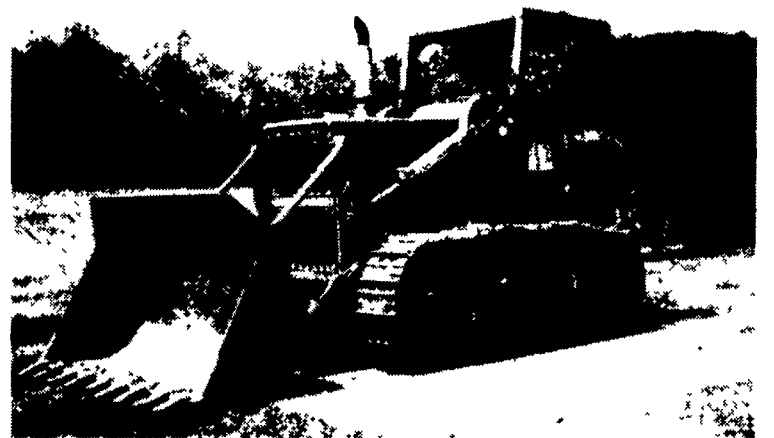
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