

Manure Not As Excessive As Expected In Lancaster County

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County Solid Waste Management Authority, sought to find where manure excess and deficit areas existed based on the amount of nitrogen.

Heistand used information collected from 575 farms during 1986 and 1987 as part of the Chesapeake Bay Assessment Project. Information from farms in the Conestoga Watershed wasn't collected as they were assessed under a different project in 1982. The Authority plans to conduct another survey in that area.

"We thought we'd have very high figures," commented Heistand. "But only two townships have more than one in five farms

high in nitrogen."

Those townships are Rapho and West Donegal, each of which contain a large number of poultry houses. Three townships, Eden, Martic, and Providence didn't have any excess nitrogen; Conoy, East Drumore, and Mount Joy have one in five farms with excess nitrogen, while the remaining townships have less than one in five farms with excess nitrogen.

If the manure in each township was spread evenly over the whole township, only two townships would have an excess of nitrogen while the remaining townships all had deficits. As would have been expected, Rapho and West Donegal townships were those with the

excesses. Rapho was far ahead with 929,209 extra units. East Donegal Township had the fewest nitrogen units with a deficit of 270,488.

The Ag Waste Committee of the Authority's Citizen Advisory Group, which is studying the problem of waste disposal and ground-water quality, plans to make recommendations to the Lancaster County commissioners by early 1990 on a nutrient-management plan. The recommendations may include a county-wide plan that would list the manure excess and deficit farms and arrange to bring these farmers together to meet each other's needs.

According to Michael W. Bru-

baker, chairman of the Ag Waste Committee and owner of Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service in Lititz, the recommendations would be detailed and include suggestions for transportation and funding.

"Cost keeps coming into this," said Brubaker. "The end result (of the recommendations) is cleaner water, but who should pay for it?"

Should the contributors foot the bill and if so, who contributes to the ground-water contamination? Or should everyone pay for the nutrient-management plan because everyone drinks and uses the water?

As Lancaster County officials attempt to solve this problem, state

legislators also are working on it.

"Representative Jeffrey Coy (D-89) of Franklin County plans to reintroduce a nutrient-management bill in April that would require every farm to have a nutrient-management plan within two years and implement it within five years," Brubaker said.

The first attempt at state-wide nutrient-management legislation, old House Bill 2616, had major problems, according to Brubaker and Heistand. Part of its problem was that it would regulate only farmers and neglected other contributors to the ground-water contamination.

In a working draft, Coy outlined the bill's purposes, which will include provision for a review and assessment of agriculture's contribution to ground-water pollution, establishment of requirements for certification of nutrient-management specialists, and assessment of the impact of non-agricultural things such as on-lot septic systems, septic system cleansers, residential fertilizers, and well-water construction on nutrient pollution.

The proposed legislature, if passed, would supersede all local ordinances.

Penn State Hires Assistant Professor Of Veterinary Science

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — Dr. Charles A. Dangler has been appointed assistant professor of veterinary science in Penn State's College of Agriculture.

Dangler's position will involve veterinary research in the areas of experimental pathology and molecular virology. He will conduct investigations of genetic recombination in pseudorabies virus, a herpes virus that affects the reproductive and nervous systems of swine. He also will identify potential mechanisms of viral-induced atherosclerosis and the development of gene probe techniques for the bacteria that causes a wasting syndrome known as Johne's disease in ruminants. In addition, he will serve as a continuing education resource for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Dangler received his bachelor's degree and veterinary medical degree from Michigan State University. He trained as a resident in veterinary pathology while enrolled in his doctoral program in comparative pathology at the University of California at Davis. He is continuing research with his colleagues in California based on his doctoral dissertation, "Development and Application of Recombinant Genetic Probes for the Study of Bluetongue Virus."

Dangler is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. He also is a member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the United States Animal Health Association.

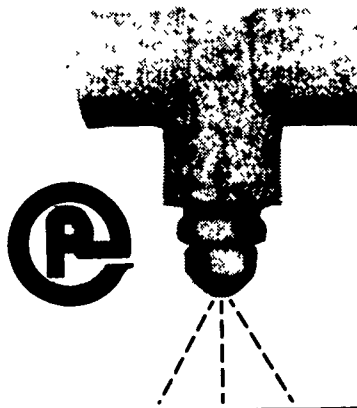


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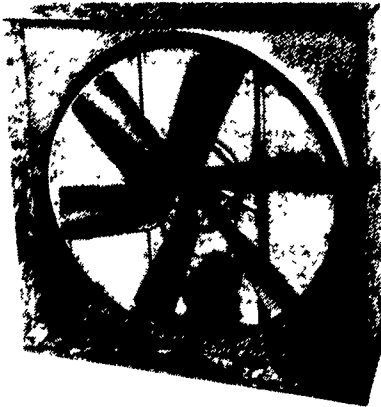
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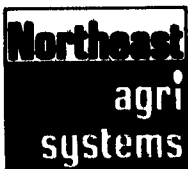
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