

Conservationists Learn Valuable Lessons

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Gerald Heistand, assistant administrator to the Chesapeake Bay Program; Nevin Greiner, resource conservationist; Karen McMinn, erosion and sedimentation secretary; and Jim Caldwell and Mark Metzler, erosion and sedimentation technicians with the Lancaster County Conservation District attended the third annual Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts employee staff conference held recently at State College.

ees participated in the two-day conference, which featured workshops and seminars focusing on tea, building training methods. Team members included district managers, secretaries, and technical staff.

Paul Strizzi and Steve Figley of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Training and Development Division took participants through a series of workshops on interpersonal communications, conflict management, group dynamics, and problem-solving techniques.

"We became more aware of the

need to look at the people side of services that DER provides," said Figley. "Conservation districts have excellent staff and we want to provide them with expertise in dealing with farmers, planners, and the general public."

Conservation districts offer a variety of services in the areas of soil, water, and natural resource management. These areas put district personnel in contact with many diversified segments of the agricultural and urban communities.

"The trend is moving into using more customer service skills," said Strizzi. "It's an area that we (DER) are focusing more on."

"Conservation districts serve the community in a unique way," stated Greiner of the Lancaster County Conservation District.

"On the one hand, districts are service-oriented agencies offering technical assistance and cost-share funding for conservation work; while on the other hand they have the responsibility for enforcing compliance with the state erosion control regulations. This effort demands that district personnel be skilled problem solvers and educators, in addition to possessing the necessary technical skills. Future state-sponsored training sessions will become more important as conservation districts continue to grow and take on more responsibility."

In other events, staff members from eight conservation districts across the state presented from their districts in an idea exchange forum. Topics ranged from computer user groups to advancement

within a district. Jeffrey TenEnyck, executive vice president, New York Association of Conservation District Employees, also gave a presentation on professional development in New York state. Other presenters included luncheon remarks by Dr. James Grace, DER deputy secretary of resources management; Margaret DelMonico, Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union; Patricia Calley, department of general services; and Edward Bechtel, Pennsylvania municipal retirement system.

For more information on conservation district programs in your area, contact: Lancaster County Conservation District, Room #6, Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 299-5361.

Agri-King Names Area Manager

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Agri-King recently named Chuck Matthews area manager of Dauphin and northwestern Lancaster counties.

Matthews has several years of experience servicing swine and dairy operations. He previously worked as a sales representative for R.J. Matthews Company.

Agri-King tests feedstuffs and formulates rations for livestock producers in 27 states. The 22-year-old company is based at Fulton, IL.



Chuck Matthews



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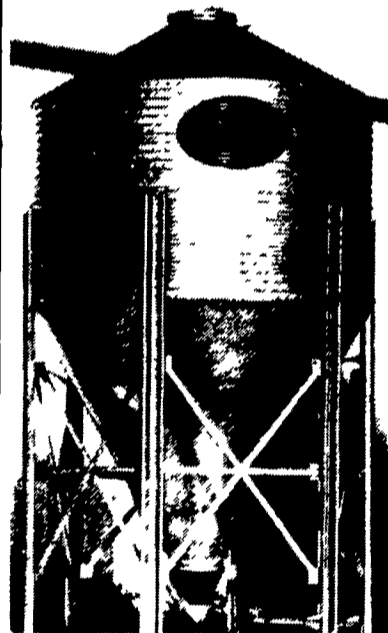
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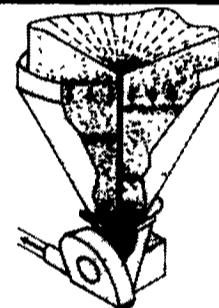
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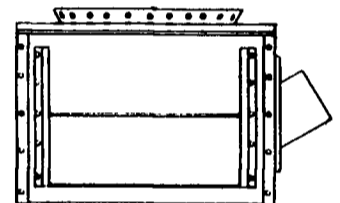
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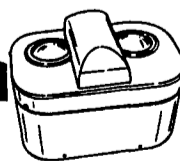
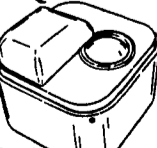
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