

New Manure Pit Liner Shows Environmental Promises

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)—Not many farmers have considered their manure as hazardous waste. But the newest thing in manure pit construction uses the

same type high density polyethylene liner that the Environmental Protection Agency requires for toxic materials. The farm version is not as thick, of course. But the end product obtains the same results: no filtration of the waste into the ground to contami-

nate the underground water supply.

For the past two years, Larry and Vaughn Brubaker, Myerstown, have been working with farmers and the local conservation districts to find a construction material that will meet the farmer's need to avoid environmental contamination.

Concrete is going to get cracks in it," Larry said. "And it's porous. Moisture will draw up and down. Even steel reinforced concrete, which is as good as you can install, will have a tendency to have shrinkage cracks."

Township ordinances to legislate manure handling practices are popular right now, and laws that carry severe penalties for under-water and stream contamination from livestock manure run-off are on the books. So the plastic liner in the bottom of the manure pit has shown great promise. And it's cost



The new type manure pit construction is ideal for an irrigation transfer system.



Ted Swords, White Oak Mills and Larry and Vaughn Brubaker, Manada Construction Company talk manure handling.

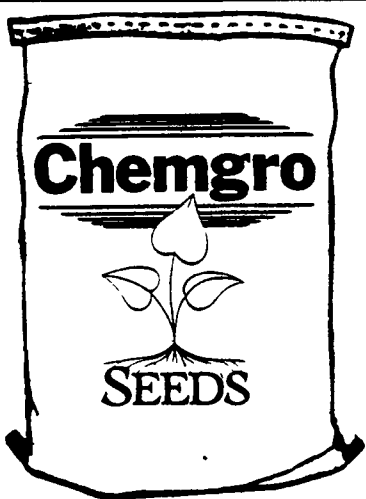
efficient.

The Brubakers construct the pit with their earth moving equipment and install underground stainless steel piping for manure agitation and removal. In addition, underground water bleed pipes are installed so that springs or any other under-surface water will not

try to force up through the impregnable liner. And while the word "plastic" in relation to waste causes a mental vision of a garbage bag the liner is 60 mils thick. You can't punch a hole in it. The seams are welded and the material carries a 20 year guarantee.

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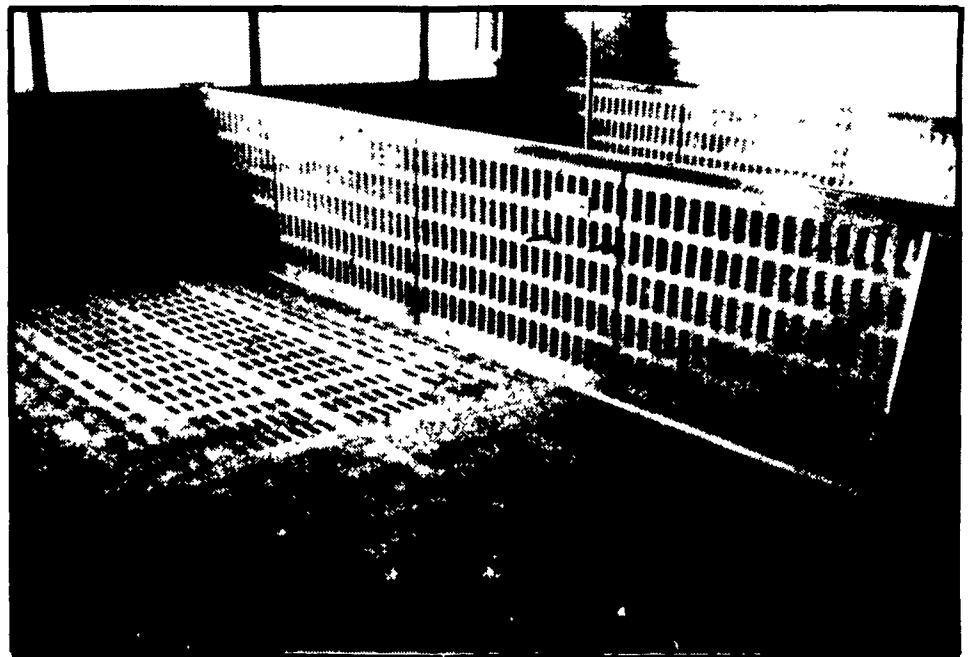
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