

Manure Tour

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pit not be emptied just exactly at the time it is full.

Paul also said he strongly recommended tractor guards at the scrape-in area.

Although several people talked about fatal accidents involving tractors which have slipped into manure pits, Paul said it should be taken very seriously. He said that originally he had not had the protective devices installed, but when his tractor slipped in during the winter, he immediately went to have them put in.

He said he ended up on top of the tractor and had to hire a crane to come in to get the tractor out of the pit.

The pit is emptied in May, with the tilled ground getting the first of it.

As far as problems with scheduling a custom hauler, Kreider said that any problems are probably a blessing. He said that when he and his brother think they are ready, is probably too early and the ground too wet. He said the haulers do a good job and it seems as though it is done at the right time, both for the needs of the pit and the fields.

"It is not cheap though. It costs about \$4,000 a year to have it emptied two times," he said, but it is less headache and probably a lot cheaper than buying their own equipment and used their own time and finances to do it.

Custom Design

While all systems are custom designed, and or approved, by the Soil Conservation Service, they are not mandatory, although nutrient management legislation is

pending which could possibly create an atmosphere for mandatory regulations for having a storage system.

One exceptionally design is on the farm of Jay Brandt in Bachmanville.

Brandt's barn gutters (milking herd) and a barnyard (heifers), empty into a huge manhole-like opening that has enough space between the barn floor and the opening of the manhole in which to park a manure spreader.

Some 200 feet of underground pipe carries the manure to a circular cement tank which can keep up to six to eight months worth of manure, at a depth of about 12 feet.

The 200 feet of underground pipe is more than twice the length of most long systems.

He said he located the tank so far away from the tie-stall, because of possible future plans.

Five years were spent planning the system. It allows for additional hookups and future expansions of the herd.

He left the space for the manure spreader because, "I wanted to still be able to get in under with the spread in case (the gravity pipe clogged and) it failed," Brandt told the group.

"There was more work involved (in putting the long system in) than I thought there was going to be," he said, adding that in the long run, he thinks the provisions he made will payoff.

"I planned for this. We spent five years trying to make as few mistakes as possible, and we still made a few," he said.

When Brandt first started thinking about putting a storage system

on the 174-acre farm, other ideas were brought up, "but I ended up with this," he said.

The tank is 12-feet deep and 70 feet in diameter. The 200-foot gravity pipe has a 6-foot total grade to it.

Currently he is not putting his milkhouse water in it, but he has

made provisions for doing such a thing should it become necessary.

Pumping Uphill

The last farm on the tour was George Ungemach's 90-cow freestall barn in Campbelltown, Lebanon County. The system, simply has two sub-storage tanks and a main tank up on a hill, where

manure from the lower tanks is pumped, if it is not used soon.

The big tank can hold 64,000 cubic feet of waste material and is fed from the two "reception pits."

"Because we didn't want to pump manure every week," Ungemach said.



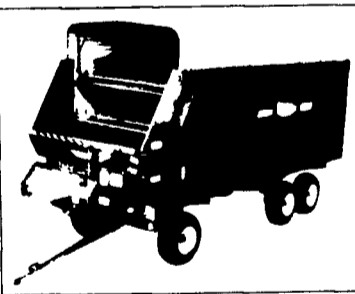
Lancaster County Poultry Queen, Deb Wolgemuth accepts the poultry month proclamation from the county commissioners. Since poultry is the number one agricultural industry in Lancaster County with receipts of \$225 million and ranks first in Pennsylvania in number of laying hens and broilers and ranks first in the nation in layers, the commissioners proclaimed the month of August as Poultry Month. From left, Brad Fischer, Bob Brenneman, Jim Huber, and Wolgemuth.

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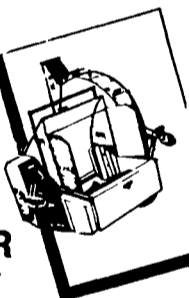
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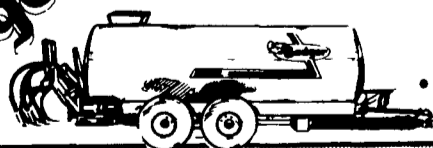
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