

Long Turkey House

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He said that since it isn't a problem now and it doesn't look like it should be a problem, he'll deal with it only if it should come up.

For various reasons, tom turkeys have a higher expected mortality than do hens. Hens average up to 4 percent mortality from when they are delivered as chicks until they reach adulthood. Toms average up to 9 percent mortality.

Disposal of dead birds by incineration has been practiced widely but is now being replaced by composting, something reported in the Feb. 8, 1992 edition of *Lancaster Farming*.

That article and seminars held by the Lancaster County extension office helped the Wengers learn more about the process, Steve said.

They have since constructed on the new farm, a 36-foot, by 24-foot pole building with 5-foot high tongue and groove planking, making six, 6-foot-by-6-foot composting bays under roof. The building sits on a cement slab to prevent nutrients from leaching into and supersaturating the immediate soil.

Armed with a "recipe" for composting dead birds, Steve said that a batch started in March has prog-

ressed well.

The compost has been maintaining a temperature of about 150 degrees for several weeks, he said. After the microbes decompose the organic material further, the batch will move further on down the line in the processing until the material is suitable for building up the organic material in the soil.

"Bio-security is the main thing to watch," Glenn said. To date they have had no problems. The new building, as is the matter of course with modern facilities, is to have decontamination foot-baths at each entrance.

The Wengers held the open house prior to the actual completion of the buildings so that people could inspect the facilities and talk with representatives before any birds are brought.

By next week, with an expected shipment of young toms, Glenn said he will not allow unnecessary human traffic in or around the buildings.

The extreme length of the buildings will require some long walking, use of a 4-wheel-ATV, or the pickup truck in handling certain maintenance routines. Problems, if they happen, makes necessary having a vehicle close-by.



State FFA officers, 1983-84 are, left to right, front, Brandon Weary, chaplain; Duane Herr, Southcentral vice president; Dave Blank, treasurer; John Haldeman, sentinel; and Don Corter, Western vice president.

Back, Carolyn Witmer, president; Vicki Bashore, vice president; Bill McBratney, Northcentral vice president; Tanya Green, secretary; and Ron Martin, Eastern vice president.

Carolyn Pfautz Recalls Year As FFA President

Editor's Note: The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, assisted by eighteen former FFA state officers, has begun an ambitious search for former state officers - their addresses, what they are doing now, and recording their remembrances as a state officer and their thoughts today about the FFA and what it meant to them to be a state officer. This is the second of a series.

If you know of a former state officer living in your area please either call Mary Jo Cancelmo,

Foundation Executive Director (215) 648-0674 or write to the Foundation at Calder Square, P. O. Box 10493, State College, Pa. 16805.

Carolyn Witmer Pfautz, Garden Spot High School FFA alumna, never realized when a best friend talked her into signing up for the freshman ag science course, that she would someday be in the history books of the Pennsylvania archives. That historical point came in 1983 when Carolyn Wit-

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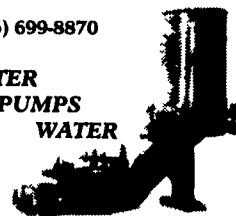
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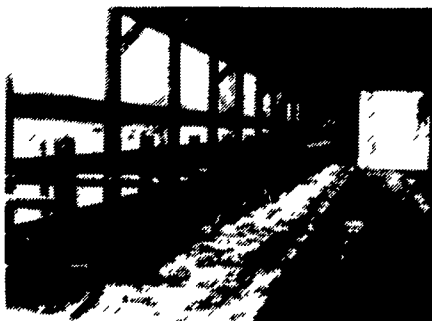
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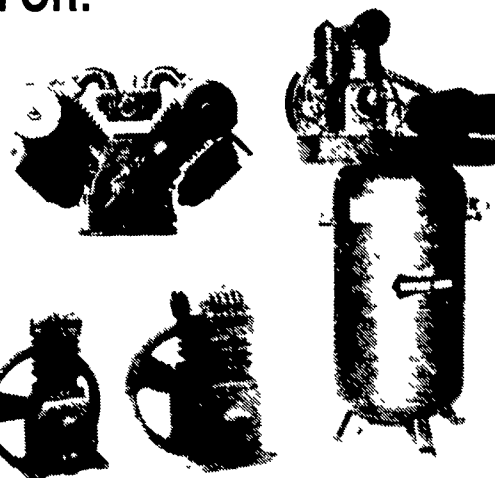
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