

Water Efficiency On the Poultry Farm

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A dry summer is a good reminder of the need for water conservation on the farm. Our water supply while generally adequate in the northeast is subject to periodic shortages. At the same time the demand for water in society in general is continuing to grow. Therefore it is important that each poultry producer develop a water conservation plan.

The first step in your plan should be to check your watering equipment. Make sure that your cup founts are not overflowing and that nipple founts are not dripping. Check to see that your pressure reducing valves are set properly and that line filters are clean and free of particles.

A second area of potential water savings on the poultry farm is in the operation of misting systems for evaporative cooling. Water use can be reduced by reducing the time period the system is operated and by using low flow nozzles. One can also reduce the number of nozzles per building and re-

strict the use of the system to times when the temperature is above 85 degrees. One can also conserve high quality water by misting with water not suitable for drinking such as water with high nitrate levels. Using air for cooling is another option to evaluate when developing your water conservation plan.

It is important to remember when adjusting your cooling system that water consumption by poultry goes up with temperature increase. Simply allowing your temperature in the house to rise will increase water consumption by the flock. Allowing the temperature to rise will only save water if the water saved in the misting system is greater than the increase in water consumption by the flock. For example, at 60 degrees 100 layers will consume 5.2 gallons per day, at 70 degrees they consume 5.3 gallons, at 80 degrees they consume 6.7 gallons, at 90 degrees they consume 10.9 gallons and at 100 degrees they consume 15.4 gallons. Also remember that additional water is the key to the birds ability to maintain proper body temperature as exter-

nal temperatures rise. Never attempt to conserve water by reducing drinking water availability.

An important part of your water conservation planning is to make emergency plans. One should think through possible options for serious drought before the need arises. The emergency replacement cost for 6,000 gallons of wa-

ter delivered within 20 miles of the source is approximately \$114. This would cover the drinking water needs of 100,000 layers for one day. Obviously one could not resort to that option for very long. An important part of emergency preparedness is to explore new supply options. One could consult with a hydrogeologist to do fracture trace mapping to locate high

potential well sites before the need is at hand.

The issue of periodic constraints on our water supply is a fact of life in our society with a growing population. Therefore continuing to update one's water conservation plan is simply a part of good management on a poultry farm.

Dairy Promotion Partners Bring Activities To Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 17-19, will be able to enjoy ice cream products, see antique dairy equipment, and get more information about dairy promotion activities.

The Dairy Promotion Partners booth, located at the corner of Main and West Eighth Streets, will also be the location for an ice cream churn-off contest on Wednesday, August 18.

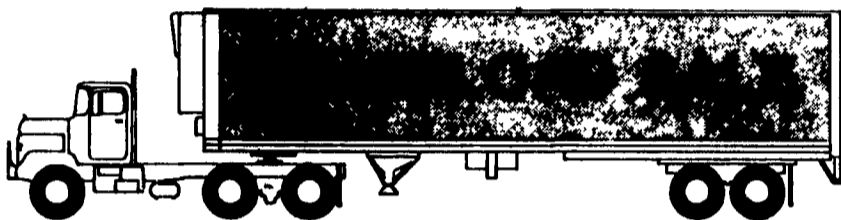
Pennsylvania's Dairy Promotion Partners include the American Dairy Association and Dairy

Council, Mid-East UDIA/F.O. 36 Advertising Agency, and the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program. These organizations have worked cooperatively since 1989 to efficiently utilize dairy farmers' promotion dollars.

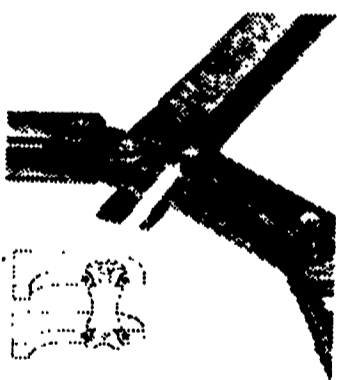
The Partner's booth will offer tempting ice cream treats from sundaes, to cones and more. All of the proceeds from the booth will be given to the Camp Victory Fund, started by the Dennis Wolff Family, from Millville (Columbia County). The Fund is used to provide year-round camping activi-

ties for children suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses.

To bring the history of the dairy industry to the public, an antique dairy equipment display will be housed in the Dairy Promotion Partners' booth. This display will showcase a wide variety of dairy equipment, including ice cream churners, used to create ice cream at home. This will culminate with the fifth annual Ice Cream Churn-Off, at 1 p.m., on Wednesday of the show. Eight teams will prepare their own flavors of homemade ice cream. Prize monies will be awarded to the top three recipes in the contest.



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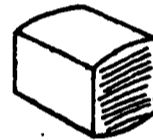
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