

Family And Farming

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The Maryland Holstein Association has a covered dish picnic planned for Sunday, June 26 at Maple Lawn Farm beginning at 11 a.m. and the public is invited. They will have a tour of the facilities and the cattle, games, an open

pool and a meeting with a possible speaker.

If Charles Iager was to give any advice to fellow farmers it would be to go slowly. "Some people get into the business and borrow too much money. It can cause problems when you go in too big. We

should borrow in small amounts that we can pay back in a reasonable amount of time, not over a long period, and watch the interest rate. I always see things as growing slowly, a little bit at a time. That is what we have always done here. We sold a group of heifers to



The cows are fed with a portable TMR mixer.



Charles and Judy Iager.

build our milking parlor in 1965, then we sold a group of heifers to

Brazil to update the milking parlor." Currently the Iagers are building a 100-cow free-stall barn and a manure pit. Rather than haul away the dirt they are using it to construct a 50 by 500-foot automated pole barn for the turkeys.

Indicating her son Mark feeding a calf nearby, Judy Iager smiles. "It always feels good to raise a calf up and have it do well." Family and farming are synonymous at Maple Lawn Farm.

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Manure Handling

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For immediate field application the manure may be loaded directly into a manure spreader from a gutter cleaner discharge or push off lip, or loaded with a front end loader.

More liquid manure may be pumped from a collection channel, sump, or small tank that holds a day or two manure accumulation.

If manure is to be pumped into a liquid spreader, wastewater from the milking center is usually included to make agitation and pumping easier. Manure can be conveyed to a storage located at the barn by the gutter cleaner, tractor scraper, large piston pump, centrifugal pump, gravity flow pipe or gravity flow channel. Manure can be transported to satellite storages located away from the barn by trucks, large spreaders or pipelines.

Manure storage systems may be located at the barn or near the cropland that will receive the manure.

If manure must be transported long distances, it is often more effective to provide satellite storages near the cropland. This allows the manure to be hauled to the storage during low labor periods and makes for more efficient spreading. Liquid manure, especially if solids have been removed, can be pumped long distances to satellite storages.

The storage must be compatible with the form of manure is removed from the barn. Heavily bedded manure can be easily stacked in three sided bunker type storages or on simple hard surfaced or packed gravel pads. Storages should be designed to prevent clean water from running into them and to direct any leachate or runoff water from the storage away from streams to vegetative filter areas or holding ponds.

Liquid manure can be stored in properly designed concrete or steel tanks, concrete or membrane lined in ground storages and in some cases earth storages. It is critical that storages be located and constructed to assure that manure will not seep through storage walls or bottom to ground or surface water.

Consult the USDA Soil Conservation Service or a qualified soils engineer regarding location and design of in ground manure stor-

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