

## Chester County Dairy Milk Lines

Walter Wurster  
Extension  
Dairy Agent

### Silo Gas A Silent Killer

In the case of silo gas, the saying, "A little knowledge is dangerous," should be replaced by, "No knowledge can be fatal."

Another slogan, "Haste makes waste," could read, "Haste means death."

As in most farm accidents, farmers know about the dangers but they get in a big hurry, or are too tired and forget to take proper precautions. With a little common sense, a farm fatality can be prevented.

In sealed silos, some nitrogen gas is produced, but the greater amount is carbon dioxide. This odorless, colorless gas replaces the oxygen in the silo and can overcome a person without warning. For this reason, sealed silos are designed in a way that entering them is unnecessary.

In conventional upright silos, the dangerous gas is nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). Nitrate or nitrite gases are especially dangerous in grasses or corn which have been heavily fertilized or exposed to rain before harvest following a period of drought.

With the weather conditions in 1995 in Chester County coupled with the high fertility levels of the soils, this year could have a high potential for silo gas accidents or deaths.

Nitrogen dioxide has a bleach-like odor, and the low-lying fumes are yellow, red, or dark brown. It is heavier than air so it will settle on the top of the silage or go down the

silo chute and collect in feed rooms and even flow into the barn producing a danger to livestock. The greatest danger occurs 12 to 60 hours after filling the silo.

Many farmers think that silo gas is only a problem with corn silage, but it can be produced in haylage.

A dairyman near Elverson had a close call this spring upon entering a conventional silo recently filled with haylage. He had some serious symptoms for a few days, but thankfully has completely recovered.

This gas causes severe irritation of the throat and nose and may lead to inflammation of the lungs. Death can occur immediately. Being briefly overcome by the gas can result in a fall that can cause death or serious injury.

However, what makes nitrogen dioxide especially dangerous is that low level exposure may only result in a little immediate pain or discomfort and that night, the farmer could die in his sleep from fluid collecting in his lungs.

Relapses with pneumonia symptoms can occur up to two weeks later.

#### Precautions:

1) If crops have been damaged by hail or frost, harvest as quickly as possible to prevent nitrate build-up and delay harvesting immediately after a rain.

2) Excess nitrates are stored in

the bottom portion of the plant, so raise your harvester and cut higher than normal.

3) Display "Deadly Gas" signs around silos and particularly keep children away from area for 2 weeks following filling.

4) Close feed room door to barn.

5) If you must enter the silo during the first 3 weeks to level the silage, lower the unloader, or make repairs, be absolutely sure to follow these safety rules:

a) Run the blower for 20 minutes before entering the silo and keep it running the entire time anyone is in the silo.

b) Have a helper standing by in case a problem develops.

c) Wear a N.I.O.S.H. approved dust mask to protect lungs from dust and mold spores.

We have a lot of good farmers in Chester County, but none to spare. Take your time and be careful.

## Market Lamb Blows Away

(Continued from Page A27)

brought \$2,677 from Singo Feed and Sons, or \$2.25 a pound.

Average price paid for the 54 steers was \$1.12 a pound.

Megan Frazee's 257-pound, grand champion York market swine sold for \$1,542, or \$6 per pound to First Philson Bank of Berlin. Frazee is from Fort Hill.

Matt Pletcher, Rockwood, saw his reserve grand champion York hog go to Somerset Hoss's for \$932, or \$4 per pound.

Sale average for the 148 hogs was \$1.27.

The five and a half hour event brought a grand total of \$140,953.45, according to sale statistician John Hartman.

Walker Farm Service spent more than \$9,000 and was the premier buyer.

Many sale donations were made to the Somerset County 4-H Development Scholarship Fund and area fire companies.

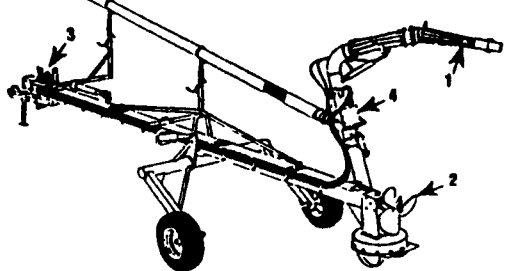
### Chester County DHIA - August 1995

Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Leon D. Kurtz Jewel	H	8-01	23,845	997	808
Ken & Marilyn Umble Pandora	H	7-02	26,641	993	829
Connie Posh	H	5-09	28,818	1135	910
Marilyn & Duane Hershey Sugar	H	7-06	27,112	975	837
Starry	H	5-10	24,833	808	800
Alvin	H	3-08	27,694	1000	1112
Fern	H	3-05	27,297	875	899
Gerald L. Kulp Sons 43	H	3-11	25,686	868	868
E. Kent High Jr. 177	H	5-00	23,588	949	811
Merle J. King Mandy	H	5-08	28,818	911	898
Gigi	H	4-03	26,502	991	873
Walmoore, Inc. #2 436	H	3-10	26,501	1000	824
278	H	5-01	28,875	1062	846
Dunwood Farm Goldika	H	3-08	29,029	1256	937
Crystal-Ray Farm Leona	H	8-06	28,792	1021	903
Pam	H	7-05	26,837	1082	864
Walmoore Inc. #3 520	H	6-05	25,733	1037	828
598	H	5-02	28,973	1085	806
614	H	5-01	26,127	1074	822
676	H	4-01	26,815	1194	903
3005	H	3-01	26,321	906	856
Charles J. Moore Alfalfa	H	5-07	27,320	573	838
Rodney Bare 28	H	4-04	28,869	1080	911
Joy-Wil Farms 72	H	4-08	27,179	832	866
57	H	4-07	24,186	851	833
54	H	3-09	22,895	827	821
16	H	3-05	24,900	899	866
Century Oaks Farm Laska	H	2-01	25,787	773	807
David K. Stoltzfus 22	H	3-09	24,961	861	812
Thunder Valley Farm Rose	H	5-00	22,821	786	810
59	H	4-02	22,077	870	929
23	H	4-05	26,686	931	833
Wilkinson Farm #1 2912	H	5-08	29,049	1000	890
Maplesway Farm Echo	H	3-01	23,347	870	813
Sam & Marian Stoltzfus 253	H	4-02	24,499	808	813
Ar Joy II Patsy	H	2-00	23,286	665	815
Melwood Farm Merri	H	3-08	28,066	975	937
Breck-A-De-Farm 59	H	3-05	24,618	1195	837
83	H	4-00	25,120	944	815
Pei Valley Farm 49	H	6-10	22,599	799	801
56	H	5-07	26,458	780	876

## TRAIL AGI-POMPE® 32' AND 42' FOR LAGOONS

GREAT PERFORMANCE  
IN HOG OR DAIRY MANURE



- 1- Highly articulated nozzle designed to slice and break the top crust from above the manure level as the propeller homogenizes the liquid with the remaining floating chunks.
- 2- 24" dia. mixing propeller providing full time agitation up to 21,500 US G.P.M. even when loading a spreader.
- 3- Hydraulic controls can be operated from tractor seat.
- 4- Rotative directional valve designed to be operated at low R.P.M. without stopping the P.T.O.

Gear box oil bath protected by a greaseable 3 seals mechanism on each shaft.

AVAILABLE WITH MULTIPURPOSE OPTION TO ALSO CLIMB INTO CONCRETE PITS UP TO 14' DEEP.

MID-ATLANTIC  
AGRISYSTEMS

Liquid Waste Specialists

Oxford, PA

800-222-2948

## Granulite™ Organic Fertilizer

Granulite is a nutrient rich organic fertilizer derived from municipal biosolids.

### Why use Granulite?

- Granulite releases its organic nitrogen slowly, creating a longer feeding time.
- Granulite provides plant nutrients and micronutrients essential for growth.
- Granulite adds organic matter to soil, increasing soil productivity.

Granulite is ideal for use on all crops including corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and pasture land.

To find out more about Granulite Organic Fertilizer, please call (301) 791-0919.



Wheelabrator Clean Water Systems Inc.

Hagerstown Facility  
1030 Frederick Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone 301-791-0919

BIOGRO Division