

Penn State Offers Odor Control Info

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Recent population figures suggest that a life in the country is drawing a growing number of people to rural Pennsylvania. As more nonfarm residents move into agricultural areas, complaints about odors from dairy, poultry and other livestock enterprises are increasing.

However, farmers do have options. "Some odor control techniques cost nothing but time and can be extremely effective in preventing odors," said Jeannie Leggett, extension assistant in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Odor Control for Animal Operations," a new fact sheet available free from the college, outlines practical and technology-based options to help control odors and minimize complaints about livestock operations. Leggett wrote the fact sheet with Dr. Robert Graves, professor of agricultural engineering.

Animal housing facilities, manure, improperly handled carcasses or decaying organic matter all can

generate foul smells. These odors can be absorbed and transported by dust or spread through the air as a gas, giving rise to complaints from neighbors.

Sound management practices, careful site selection and communication with your neighbors may be your best and least expensive ways to prevent odor complaints, she said.

Sometimes it is easier to prevent odor complaints than it is to stop odors themselves. Visual buffers such as a row of trees around manure ponds and spreading areas may help reduce the number of complaints.

"Be sure to open lines of communication with the community," Leggett said, "Let your nonfarm neighbors know that you are concerned about odors and would like to work with them to understand and solve the problem."

A little community outreach can go a long way, but stopping odors before they become a nuisance may be necessary if courtesy fails. "Good housekeeping is your best defense against odor generation," Leggett said. "Clean up spilled feed, silage and manure in hard-to-reach areas. Keep animals clean and dispose of carcasses promptly and properly."

Some control methods are designed to keep odors within the

farm boundary, where they are less likely to disturb neighbors. The fact sheet discusses the advantages and disadvantages of several options, including composting, adding a biofilter to the ventilation system, and manure additives.

"Odor Control for Animal Production Operations," fact sheet G-79, is available now. Several related fact sheets also are available from Penn State, including "On-Farm Composting," "Farm Com-

posting: Plan Now to Avoid Problems Later" and "Farm Composting for Profit."

To obtain copies or to receive a list of all fact sheets offered by the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, write to the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Extension Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 246 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-7685.

Extension Sets Meeting

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — The public is cordially invited to attend the 78th annual meeting of the Dauphin cooperative extension at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center.

This year's program will fea-

ture "Sustaining Dauphin County Agriculture into the 21st Century."


A ham and turkey dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Cost is \$13 per person, children under 18 years old are \$8.75 each, and children under two years old are free.

A reservation form can be obtained by calling (717) 921-8803.

Deadline for reservations is Monday, Oct. 23.

Special features will be keynote speaker, Dr. Herb Cole, Penn State plant pathologist; continuous slide presentation of Dauphin County agriculture; and recognition of cooperative extension leadership.

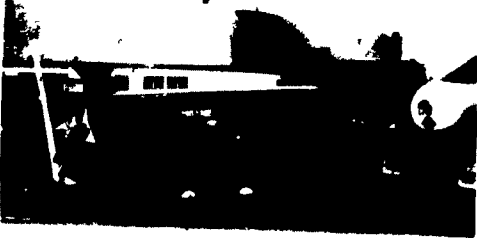
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