

Manure 'Odor Guidelines'

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identified as sources of odors. In fact, scientists have identified as many as 100 different compounds associated with the degradation of manure.

"So it's a very complex, scientific issue as well as a psychological issue — a perception issue," said Williams.

It is the specific interactions of

the compounds as a result of the breakdown of manure that create the odor. These all react in unique ways. And the perceptions and impact of the specific odors differ from individual to individual.

"The human nose is very sensitive," he said. "It's been shown that as few as eight molecules of some of the compounds that make up agricultural odor will be judged offensive by a human."

We all perceive odor differently. Also, we often smell with our eyes, according to Williams.

He spoke about one German layer house that was nearly shut down because of odor complaints. The company installed an odor filtration unit that actually did little to reduce the odor. But when it came time to dismantle the equipment, the manager of the house stopped and decided, instead, to keep the

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equipment. Why?

The neighbors noticed that something was being done. As a result, "the complaints had stopped," according to Williams.

"Whether we like it or not, individuals smell as much with their eyes as they do with their noses," he said. Efforts to improve odor control, while not 100 percent effective, would go a long way in stemming potential lawsuits from

angry neighbors. "I think that's a valuable lesson for producers."

It's important to involve the neighbors in decisions to add or expand facilities, according to the testimony of several farmers at the conference. That's also true in Williams' experience.

"If neighbors feel that they had very little to do or nothing to do with the construction of a new ani-

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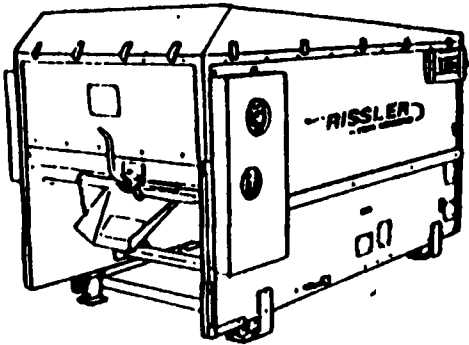
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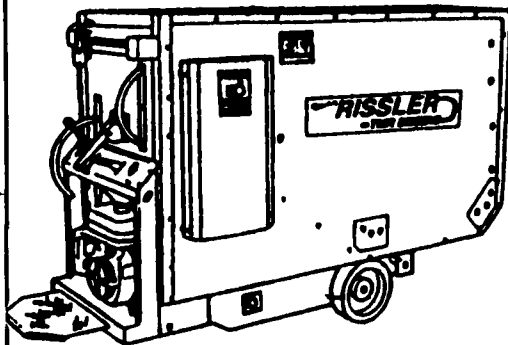
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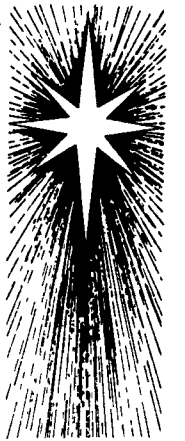
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Come and worship Christ the King.

Come and lay your all before Him

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