

Lebanon Conservation District Tours Farms

(Continued from Page A20)

Overall, the projects offered through the Conservation District should not be seen as intrusions into otherwise healthy farming practices. That simply is not the truth.

The farms that have gotten project help through the Conservation District had serious problems — problems that created significant health concerns and put them at risk of prosecution for pollution.

The people involved have farming backgrounds or are sensitive to farm needs and desires for efficiency. Overall, Wolfgang said the conservation practices can be seen as community health projects.

"Looking on the broad spectrum, the practices ultimately help the Chesapeake Bay, but they also improve farm efficiency and local water quality, even as localized as well-head protection," Wolfgang said.

Wolfgang grew up on a grain farming operation in Schuylkill County where his father had implemented a conservation plan, installing contour strips, grass waterways and diversions.

Relatively new to Lebanon County, starting there in the fall of 1994, Wolfgang said he grew up

seeing the benefits of installing conservation practices.

The Lentz farm was the first farm visited. The Bay contract work done there included two cemented manure holding facilities on the original home farm — one at the original site on the bank of the Swatara Creek, the other at a newer dairy facility built to keep the milking string.

The older farm site had a manure storage facility installed and is being used to keep the replacement heifers. Lentz said that his father had moved to the farm in 1959 when Gary was 10 months old. Growing up, the manure from the barn lot and the milkhouse used to go into the stream. It no longer does.

He also had some stream fencing installed and did some spring development and protection work on a spring that is adjacent to the original farmstead foundation (that now is the site of children play structures).

Lentz told the group that he was very pleased with the structures built.

He said he first got involved with the Conservation District in 1985 and in 1988 began building.

Further west and north of the Lentz farm, the tour visited the



Doug Wolfgang, left, talks to a tour group about work planned at the Harry Buck farm.

Williamses farm. The operation has undergone significant changes since the Williams have had the farm.

The land under farm includes a large interior bend of the Swatara Creek near Jonestown. The low lying land had been under crop cultivation, with a slim wooded buffer

along the stream.

The Williamses have since converted most of that into a pasture crop for intensive grazing, while retaining some of the higher ground for some silage, grain and hay crops. That operational change helped the profitability of the farm, and at the same time created a

more environmentally sound operation.

However, the former owner of the cow barn apparently created his own manure storage pit by backhoeing the fill next to the barn foundation.

(Turn to Page A23)



Almost amazingly, this earthen manure pit was expanded by a previous owner by excavating soil next the foundation of this cow barn. The barn foundation needs to be shored up, while a cemented manure storage is planned to correct the site.

WARNING!

An odorless, colorless, invisible--and costly--forage thief!

You can't see it--and you can't stop it. Storage losses in forage can steal your valuable crop--how much is lost depends upon how you store your feed.

- Tower Silos have Up to 8% loss*
- Bunkers have Up to 45% loss**

If the average difference in feed lost between tower silos and bunkers is 30%, then storage of 1000 tons will mean 300 tons MORE lost in a bunker. If silage is valued at \$30 per ton, the additional losses from bunker storage would be \$9000 per year.

For information on losses for all types of crop storage methods, contact the Crop Storage Institute for your free copy of "Methods of Crop Storage" and "Know the Facts."

Crop Storage Institute
P.O. Box 560

Lafayette, Indiana 47902-0560

Phone: 317-742-0083 Fax: 317-742-6135 E-mail: drewfree@aol.com

* "Dry Matter Retention in Silage Storage Units," Marshfield Exp., Station, 1983
** "Keeping Aid Out of Bunkers is the Key," Hoards Dairyman, March 25, 1992

LOOKING FOR...

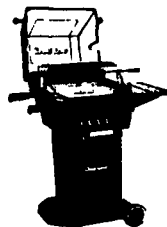
HAMMOCKS,
GAS GRILLS,
PATIO FURNITURE,
STOVES & MORE.



SAMSONITE AND TELESCOPE
PATIO FURNITURE



Hatteras
Hammocks



GAS
GRILLS

BOWMAN'S
STOVE & PATIO
INC.

906 E. Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 733-4973 800-642-0310

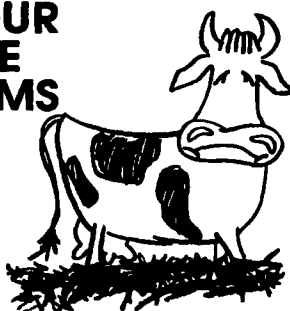
HOURS Mon., Tues., Wed. 10 to 6
Thurs., Fri. 10 to 8; Sat. 10 to 4



Since 1972...
The Original & The Largest
**POURED SOLID
CONCRETE**

STORAGE
SYSTEM
SPECIALISTS

**ARE YOUR
MANURE
PROBLEMS
KNEE
DEEP?**



If so,
call
**Balmer
Bros.**

■ Poured Solid Concrete
Steel Reinforced Walls.

■ The Wall is Only As Good As The
Material Used.

- Manure Pit Walls
- Hog House Walls
- Chicken House Walls
- Concrete Decks
- Silage Pit Walls
- Retaining Walls

Balmer Bros.

CONCRETE WORK, INC.

Invest in Quality - It Will Last A Lifetime.

243 Miller Road
Akron, PA 17801

(717) 733-0383

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

(717) 888-28
After 6:00 P.

KEN CLUGSTON
(717) 665-8775

**CRAFT-BILT
CONSTRUCTION INC.**

FARM-HOME BUILDING
1242 Breneman Road
MANHEIM, PA 17545
PH: (717) 665-4372

BUILDING & REMODELING FOR-
DAIRY RESIDENTIAL
SWINE POLE BUILDINGS
BEEF STORAGE



**All-Plant
LIQUID PLANT FOOD**

9-18-9 PLUS OTHERS!

- Contains 100% white ortho phosphoric acid. Made in USA.
- Non-corrosive. Won't settle.
- Top quality. Excellent service.
- Newest equipment.
- Financially sound... and growing!

**Big Demand Requires
More Distributors!**

- I sell to farmers.
How do I become your distributor?
- I'm a farmer.
What's the price?
Where do I get it?

**CALL or SEND FOR FACTS:
Phone: 814-364-1349**

ALL-PLANT LIQUID PLANT FOOD, INC.
821 State Rd. 511 N., RFD 3,
Ashland, Ohio 44805