Lebanon Conservation District Tours Farms

(Continued from Page A22)

The earthen pit will be replaced with a cemented pit of about the same holding capacity (though not as much as a non-grazing operation would require), while the barn foundation is repaired.

The foundation and walls are beginning to crack from the lack of support and apparently because of the saturation. Also, to handle some of the silage "juice" drainage that has been mixing with stormwater runnoff adjacent to the barn, stormwater is to be rerouted, and silage drainage is to be diverted onto a cement drying and

Actually, silage drainage is very high in nutrients. In Europe, silage drainage has been of concern for some time. At the Donmoyer Farm, further west along the Swatara, the former front pasture was messy and wet from being used heavily as an excercise lot.

A 130-foot diameter storage facility is the largest the Lebanon Conservation District helped establish with 87,582 cubic feet of storage. The farm has 585 acres on which to spread manure.

The storage facility was built to accept manure and milkhouse waste and stormwater drainage from around the outside of the tank was installed to prevent the area from becoming around it from becoming saturated and interferring with equipment.

A grass waterway diversion was also installed. While the facility is large, Donmoyer plans expansion.

At the Harry Buck farm, a stream crossing, stream bank fencing, a grass buffer to handle nutrient-laden runnoff and stormwater management are called for. Currently, field surface drainage comes right through the farmhouse yard, while runoff from the animal excercise lot drains almost directly into a stream.

A long-used farm vehicle stream crossing also has created an erosion problem. While the Buck farm was not yet under contract, it was considered a formality.

Once the project designs are finished and the bidding process is complete, a contract is expected to be completed.

The Pete Hanson farm site, near the Deodate area in the northwestern part of the county, displayed an installed stream crossing and streambank fencing at a heifer facility. The Hanson's sacrificed several additional feet of land on either side of the stream bank to minimize fencing and fence angles and to maximize the effect of fencing on the stream.

Obviously in place for some months, wildlife could be seen in the protected area, and the stream conditions seemed improved.

The Richard Wizar farm is located west of Cornwall, visible from Rt. 322. The large wetland occupies what had been historically a too wet area to crop or pasture effectively.

Surprisingly, even though the land was less than useful for cropping or pasturing, the soils were not defined as wetlands.

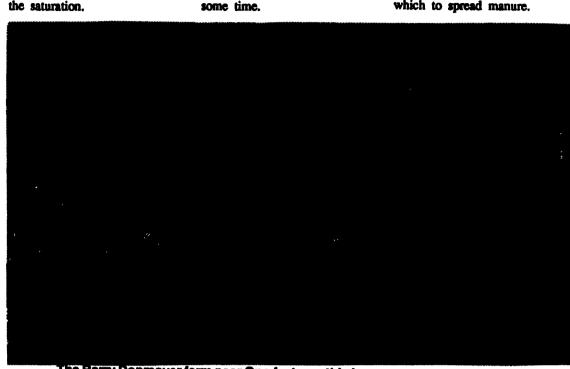
Basically, the shallow water wetlands was created by shallow excavation and creating a berm, more than a dam. A stream flow nearby, but the wetlands doesn't block stream flow, nor appear to have a significant affect on raising the stream temperature (thermal pollution).

Along very recently constructed, the wetland was already filled with waterfowl.

Work to establish a cover crop on the berm and finish details is to occur this year.

Aesthetically, the wetland can be expected to add to the attraction of the farm, which operates a landscaping nursery, and also provide a source for raising aquatic plants for sale.

For more information on what projects can be initiated on a farm, contact a local conservation district.



The Barry Donmoyer farm near Ono features this large manure storage facility, the largest installed in Lebanon County under Chesapeake Bay Program cost-sharing.

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Pa. Guernsey Association Announces Convention

ENON VALLEY (Lawrence Co.) — The Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association has announced plans for its 65th annual meeting to be held at the Arena, in Bedford, April 26-27.

Activities start at 12:30 p.m., Friday, April 26 with registration.

Berneta Gable is to preside. Highlights of the meeting includ the 65th annual business meeting, a Mags Meeting, a hospitality hour, awards banquet, queen contest, recognition of the All-Pennsylvania winners, a junior member breakfast, craft auction, and the Blue Halter Calf Plus Added Consignments sale.

Pre-registration for meal reservations is requested by Friday, April 19.

There are two meals of concern — the banquet tickets at \$12.50 each per adult, \$6.50 for children aged less than 11 years; and the youth awards breakfast \$6.50.

A sale luncheon is to be provided by the Bedford 4-H Club in the Bedford Fairgrounds 4-H Building.

Motel reservations can be made by calling the Quality Inn, Bedford, at (814) 623-5188. Rooms are (excluding tax) \$49.90 for single occupancy; \$51.30 for a double.

Children aged 16 or younger staying in the room are not charged

extra. When making reservations, mention that the rooms are being reserved in connection with the Guernsey Convention.

To get to the Arena, take Exit 11 off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Friday, April 26

The annual buiness meeting is set to start at 2 p.m. Friday.
At 5:30 p.m., a hospitality hour is set to start.

At 6:30 p.m., the 65th annual awards banquet is set with special guest Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rhonda Kieklak and a craft auction.

A social is scheduled to begins at 10 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

Starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, the Pa. Junior Guernsey Breeders' Association awards breakfast and the crowning of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Queen.

At 10 a.m., the Middle Atlantic Guernsey Sires (MAGS) meeting is set to start, followed at noon with a sale luncheon at the 4-H building at the Bedford Fairgrounds.

The calf and consignments sale is to start at 1 p.m.

Mail meal reservations with a check made out to the Pa. Guernsey Breeders' Association, in an envelope addressed to the association at 222 Martin School Rd., Enon Valley, PA 16120.

For more information, call James Trotter at (412) 667-0834.

