

Worker Health Should Involve More Than Using A Mask

(Continued from Page A1)

real problems in trying to get people to put the respirators on inside the houses.

Respirators should be used, but only as an adjunct to an overall house environment management plan.

Donham said, "About 50 percent of the people working inside poultry facilities have one or more respiratory complaints," according to a series of surveys completed in the past several years. Twenty-five percent of the growers have problems "we would consider are chronic problems," he said. "Of those, in terms of what is going to lead to some permanent disability, it's difficult to know."

While research on grower reaction to the health problems experienced is relatively unknown in the poultry industry, research has found that in the swine industry, "we probably lose five percent of producers over a five-year period

because of respiratory problems. We don't know what that is in the poultry industry."

But evidence points to problems that the vertically integrated, all-confinement industry has in regards sometimes to protecting worker health.

Donham said the single largest fine that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued went to a poultry producer in Maine. The amount of the fine? Five million dollars, "because of occupational concerns of the people working in the poultry facilities," said the vet.

The most important concern: particulate matter in the building over the long haul is the most important occupational exposure. Ammonia rides on the particles. But a whole host of other agents, potentially toxic agents, also are of concern.

These include endotoxins and other material that can prove hazardous to workers.

Donham indicated that in one poultry house, experts measured 1,589 endotoxin units per cubic meter — way over the 1,000 units recommended as safe.

People who work in broiler houses can be exposed to the highest amount of endotoxins per cubic meter, compared to layers.

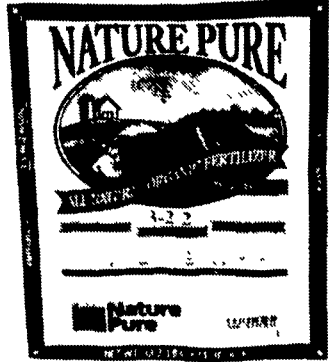
And complains from workers point this out — people in the broiler industry, said Donham, have the greatest degree of symptoms, according to surveys.

Growers face more hazards the longer they are exposed. One syndrome is called organic dust toxic syndrome — with symptoms similar to the flu (tiredness, achiness, drowsiness, often accompanied by a headache, fever, and tightness in the chest).

Donham said that endotoxins are probably the cause of the syndrome.

Twenty-five percent of the producers in the survey have symp-

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One method has been selling the product directly in 33.3-pound bags. The material tests at 3-2-2. The bags sold under the Nature Pure logo retail in Ohio as Class III organic fertilizer for \$189 per ton-bag, according to Salmat representative Rod Combs.

ANIMAL HOUSING EXPO

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SPEAKERS

- 10:00 a.m. **Practical Solutions to Control Cattle, Poultry and Swine Odors**
Mike Williams, Ph.D.
N. Carolina State University
- 11:00 a.m. **A Parlor for Every Budget**
Doug Reinemann, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin
- 11:00 a.m. **Swine Demonstration** by Ken Kephart
Penn State University
- 12:30 p.m. **Hoof Trimming Demonstration**
Dale Moore
Penn State University
- 1:30 p.m. **Obtaining Permits for Agricultural Expansion**
Tim Royer, P.E.
Timber Tech Engineering, Inc
Womelsdorf, PA

OCTOBER 30, 1996

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visit Exhibits
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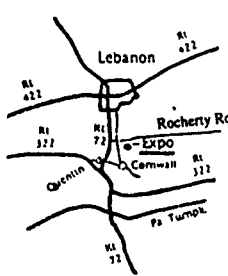
SPEAKERS

- 10:00 a.m. **Nutrient Management Issues for Cattle, Poultry, and Swine Producers**
Mike Brubaker
Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service, Ephrata, PA
Robert Graves, Ph.D.
Penn State University
- 11:00 a.m. **Your Family Business Goals**
Don Rodgers, V.P.
First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, Enfield, Conn.
- 12:30 p.m. **Hoof Trimming Demonstration**
Brian Reed, Agricultural Veterinary Associates, Manheim, PA
- 1:30 p.m. **Greenhouse and Other Dairy Shelter Alternatives**
Robert E. Graves, Ph.D.
Penn State University

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From the Lancaster-Lebanon exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take Route 72 north toward Lebanon for about 6 miles and turn right onto Rocherty Road. Proceed about half a mile to the fairgrounds. From Lebanon, take Route 72 south. About 1 mile south of the light at Cedar Square Plaza, turn left onto Rocherty Road. Proceed about half a mile to the Lebanon County Fairgrounds.

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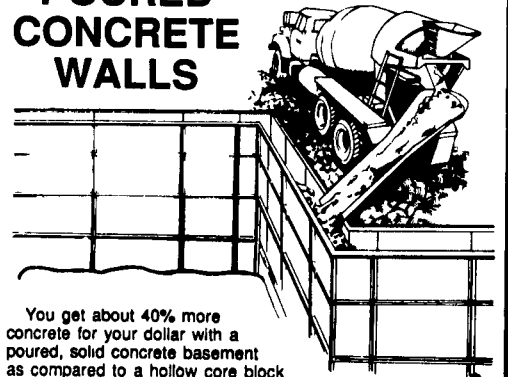
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