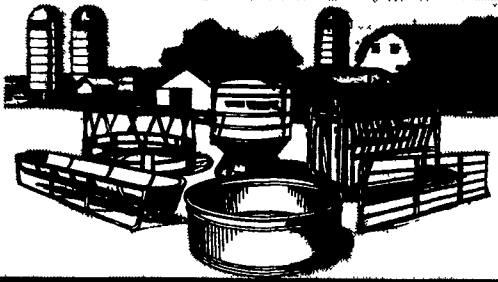
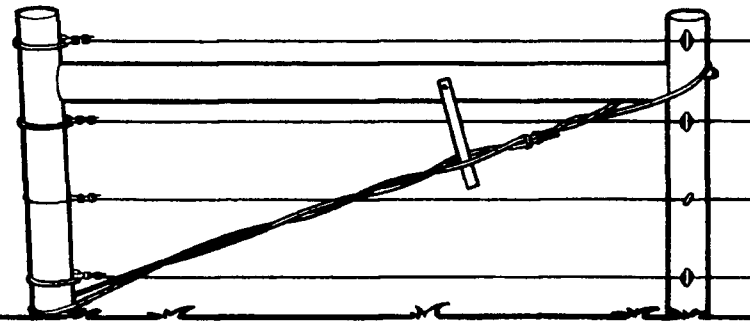


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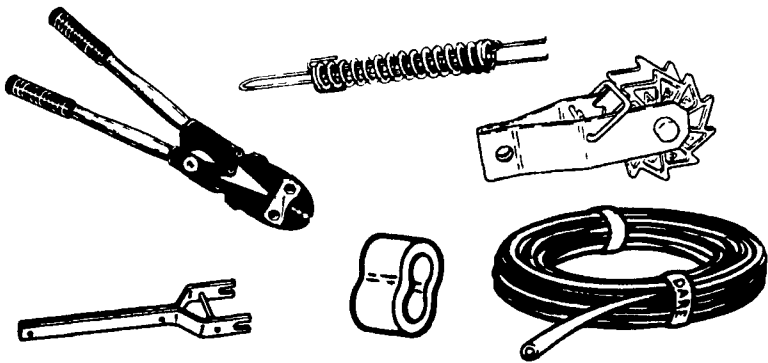


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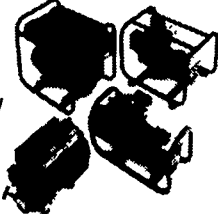


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(Continued from Page A26)

nitrogen-based nutrient management planning and implementation.

He also discussed the EPA's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) national rules. Pennsylvania recently finalized its proposal for compliance with EPA.

Ressler also discussed the EPA-USDA Unified Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs).

While much has been written about the changes and the regulations, he reminded farmers that more and more public attention has been directed toward agriculture, especially high density operations.

He advised that there are new permitting requirements and costs associated with manure management and operational size.

Furthermore, the size or intensity of the farming operation no longer has a bearing on whether it is subject to mandatory planning.

Depending upon the rating of the water quality of the watershed basin in which a farm is sited, it may be required to adopt an approved nutrient management plan.

He supplied a list of watersheds in Lancaster County that have been assigned high quality values, so

that farmers could better determine if they are in such an area.

Following Ressler on the program was Dr. Andrew Sharpley, a soil scientist at the USDA Agricultural Research Station at Penn State. He works at its Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Laboratory.

Last year, Dr. Sharpley headed the first regional phosphorus conference at Penn State, a conference filled with detailed research reports that attracted a number of academic, commercial and political specialists.

Sharpley's research with USDA has investigated the cycling of phosphorus in soil-plant-water systems in relation to soil productivity and water quality, and includes the management of fertilizers, crop residues, and animal manures.

He has developed models that simulate soil chemical processes and transport of phosphorus in storm water and other runoff.

Currently, Dr. Sharpley is leading research to develop ways of identifying agricultural fields that are vulnerable to phosphorus loss in runoff, so that more flexible and effective best management practices can be developed and targeted for use on those fields.

He reviewed that initial research and the likelihood that should Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act be revised to account for phosphorus, it would be targeted to areas of the farm where phosphorus leaching is more likely.

The problem with phosphorus, Sharpley explained, is that the level in soil needed to evoke a crop response is 2 parts per million, while the amount of phosphorus in water needed to evoke a response is .02 parts per million.

The Chesapeake Bay, he explained is unique in the fact that its watershed is tremendously large in relationship to the size of the body of water. That makes it especially vulnerable to effects from land disturbances and activities.

(Turn to Page A37)

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