

# Pork Expo

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Penn State to study the effectiveness of biofilters — methods to reduce swine odor control at the farm. Those methods include floating straw covers over manure storage structures.

About 120 people were not affected by odors, but 60 noted they were. Of those affected, their knowledge of the operation was greater than those unaffected. They reported a wide array of problems, including nausea, headaches, and fatigue.

Mikesell noted there was no way of knowing whether the symptoms reported were "real or psychological." The biofilters worked, but incur some cost.

Leon Ressler, Lancaster County environmental exten-

sion agent, spoke about efforts to use a mesh and straw system over a lagoon to cut odors. He also spoke about the effectiveness of using pallet systems containing 80-85 percent coarse oak wood chips and 15 percent composed dairy manure as a wall of trapping odors blown from sidewall housing fans.

The fan/biofilter system worked well, according to Ressler. However, because of proper ventilation, another 25-30 percent more fans may be needed, incurring some cost. The materials used included most off-the-shelf items. Perhaps in the future a commercial system can be put in place.

Ressler also noted that pit fans used with the biofilters work well because they deal with the actual source of the odors. Also, producers must

follow an aggressive rodent control plan and weed control to assure biofilter effectiveness.

## Pork Bowl

Seven teams from the state competed in the annual Keystone Pork Bowl, featuring 26 4-H and FFA members.

In the final round, Adams County 4-H overcame leader Marion Center FFA, 135-115, to win first place for the first time at the contest.

According to contest administrator Linda Spahr, York County extension agent, there were seven teams.

Marion Center had to lose twice — bested by Adams County 4-H when a Marion Center team member, because of time restraints, had to exit the contest. The member, Nathan Elkin, was crucial to the success of the team through the critical first several rounds.

# Frederick County Milkers' Schools

FREDERICK, Md.—Two Milkers' Schools have been scheduled for Frederick County in March. These schools are designed to provide milkers with the latest information on milking techniques and associated practices.

Topics included are anatomy of the udder, milk letdown, somatic cells and the CMT, costs of mastitis, milking equipment performance, causes of mastitis, teat dipping, cleaning milking equipment, treatment and prevention of mastitis, milking techniques, residue avoidance, and much more.

Although the program is targeted to the folks who are milk-

ing the cows, herdsmen and herd owners are encouraged to attend with the milkers to allow cooperative learning.

Both schools begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. The first school will be held on March 2 at the Mt. Gate Restaurant, Thurmont. The second will be held on March 14 at the Dan Dee Restaurant, Frederick.

The cost for both locations is \$20 per person. This registration fee includes lunch and reference materials. The registration deadline is one week prior to each school. Please send check, payable to **Frederick County EAC** to: Ag Office, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, Frederick County Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702-8200. For more information, call 301-694-1594 Ext. 3576.



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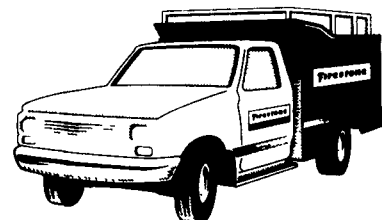
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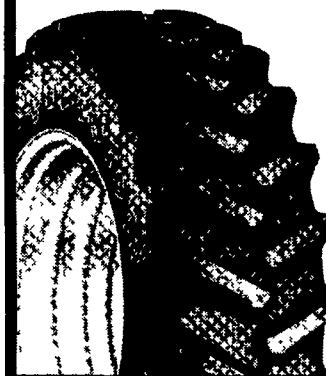


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