

# Agriculture Department Expands Plastic Recycling Program

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. announced the expansion of the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program with the purchase of a granulator to shred plastic pesticide containers.

Hayes demonstrated the new equipment recently for agriculture officials, local growers, and Pesticide Advisory Board members.

The acquisition of this truck-mounted granulator will allow the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program to operate more efficiently by reducing the number of times the containers are handled. Also, the program no longer will be dependent on outside contractors for granulation services.

Hayes said more than 75,000 containers have been returned this year for recycling. This converts more than 70,000 pounds of plastic and represents a 25

percent increase from last year. Only No. 2 High Density Polyethylene containers are accepted into the program.

"Growers in Pennsylvania are, and always have been, good stewards of the land and environment and are doing their part to reduce the negative environmental impact of disposing of these plastic containers by land filling or open burning," Hayes said. "The ultimate goal of the program is to make recycling opportunities available to all pesticide users by conveniently locating dropoff sites across the commonwealth."

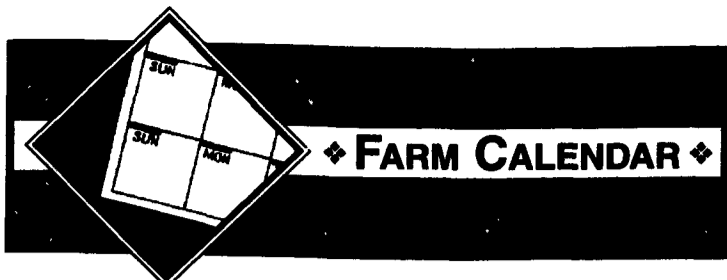
There are 64 locations in 38 counties. This network of collection locations provides individuals the opportunity to recycle their clean, rinsed plastic containers. Before being accepted, all containers are inspected on site to insure that they have been properly rinsed and cleaned. Clean containers then are stored in a secure facility at the site to await granulation.

In 1994, the Department of

Agriculture started the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program to reduce the negative environmental impact of disposing of waste plastic pesticide containers. The statewide program collects waste pesticide containers and reduces them into chips for remanufacture into a number of end-use products.

Hayes said that, while approved end-uses include new pesticide containers, plastic industrial pallets, speed bumps, parking lot bumpers and fence posts, many other uses are being explored.

To find the nearest Pesticide Plastic Container Recycling Program collection location, contact a Department of Agriculture regional office, contact the County Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, access the Department of Agriculture's Website through the PA PowerPort at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us), or visit the Pesticide Education homepage at [www.pested.psu.edu/pdaprofr.html](http://www.pested.psu.edu/pdaprofr.html).



## ♦ FARM CALENDAR ♦

(Continued from Page A10)

trict annual Cooperator's Banquet, Jefferson Ruritan Center, Jefferson, Md., 6:30 p.m.

Southeast Regional Cattle Association meeting, Hoss's Steak House, Exton, 7 p.m.

National Society of American Foresters Convention, Washington Hilton and Towers, Washington, D.C. thru Nov. 21.

Friday, November 17

Lancaster Farmland Trust Annual Diner, Bolger Conference Center, Millersville University, 5:45 p.m.

Berks County Holstein Club Banquet, Virginville Grange, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 18

Lancaster Holstein Club breakfast, Shady Maple Buffet, 9 a.m.

Susquehanna County Farm-City Feast, Mountain View High School, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 19

Monday, November 20

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Heritage House, Brookville, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce 24th Annual Ag-Industry Banquet, Lancaster Host Resort, 6:30 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmer meeting, Farm Safety, Solanco High School, 7 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Gospel Tabernacle Church, Coudersport, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ag Service School, Days Inn, Meadville.

Thursday, November 23

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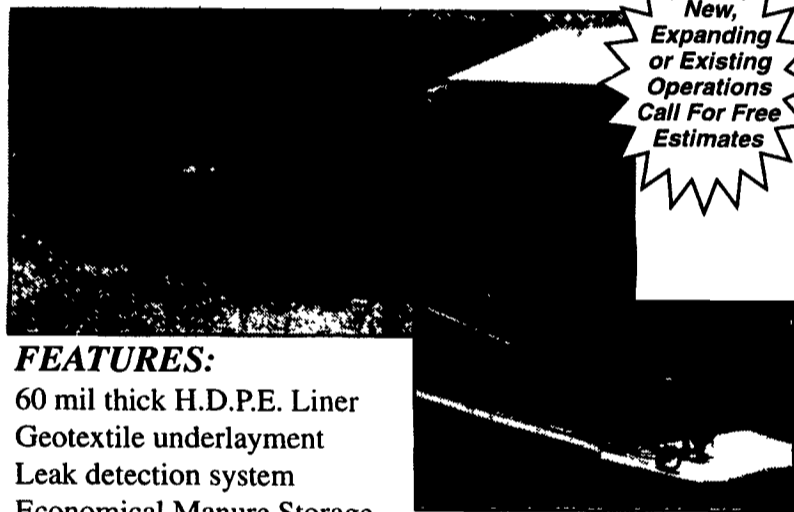
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### FEATURES:

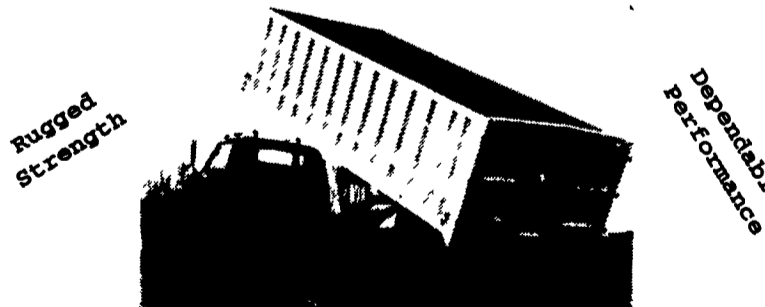
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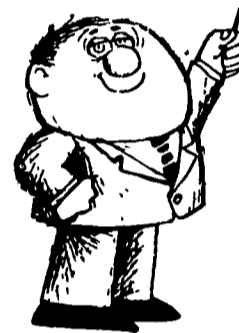
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