

Bolyard Represents Pennsylvania

Shelah Bolyard, daughter of Charles and Rebekah Bolyard, Mercer, PA, represented Pennsylvania in the National Beef Ambassador Competition in San Francisco, California on November 3-5, 2000 in the annual scholarship competition.

"It was exciting to meet people from all over the United States who take beef seriously, they had issues," said Bolyard. "Some of them come from ranches over 1000 acres big and produce over 600 head of cattle every year. Most of them entered the competition to for future agriculture jobs. I really learned a lot about beef and would like to speak to Pennsylvania groups about my experiences at Nationals."

The Beef Ambassador Competition included a barbeque and rodeo at the Cow Palace, a tour of San Francisco, Embassy Suites room and air fare.

Bolyard and her sister, Sarah, mother, Rebekah, and grandmother, Ruth Woods, also toured the Presidia Military Base and Fort Point, Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Warf, Alcatraz, China Town by cable car, and the Rain Forest Restaurant.

Bolyard won the Penn State Competition during 4-H State Days in August, 2000. She represented the Mercer County 4-H program.

To get information on the local competitions, contact your county 4-H office and request the State Days rules and regulations packet.

The National Beef Ambassador Program was conceived in 1988 as a scholarship event by the National Cattlemen and then by the National 4-H Cooperative Extension Program. In 1995, the American National Cattlemen received beef

check-off funding from the Cattlemen's Beef Board to expand the program, which today involves all youth in 50 states from ages 15-19.

The top seven winners received monetary awards and trips to National Livestock Expositions.

The purpose of the National Beef Ambassador Program is to train spokespersons for the beef industry. Through preparing for the competition, contestants become knowledgeable about the nutritional and economic values, by-products, food safety, and versatile uses of beef.

Trained youth ambassadors can address issues and misconceptions in schools, workplaces and in their communities both urban and rural. Contestants participating in the National Beef Ambassador Competition presented a five to eight minute illustrated talk on the promotional aspects of beef and participated in a hands-on beef education workshop.

Organic Matter

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sume, or demand, oxygen.

For example, the oxidation of organic matter can be carried out by microorganisms, that is, it occurs through biochemical reactions. In the presence of dissolved oxygen, the biochemical oxidation of organic matter is carried out by aerobic microorganisms according to the following generalized reaction:

Organic matter + oxygen + nutrients + cells → carbon dioxide + water + ammonia + new cells

The amount of oxygen needed to react with the organic matter in the above equation is equal to

the biochemical oxygen demand of the organic matter and is measured in the BOD test.

The oxidation of organic matter can also occur through strictly chemical reactions. The amount of oxygen that reacts with the organic matter in the strictly chemical reactions is not measured using the BOD test. Instead, it is measured using the COD test, which does not involve microorganisms. The BOD and COD tests are similar in that they both measure the amount of organic matter present in a wastewater indirectly, by quantifying the amount of oxygen that is used up in biochemical or chemical reactions.



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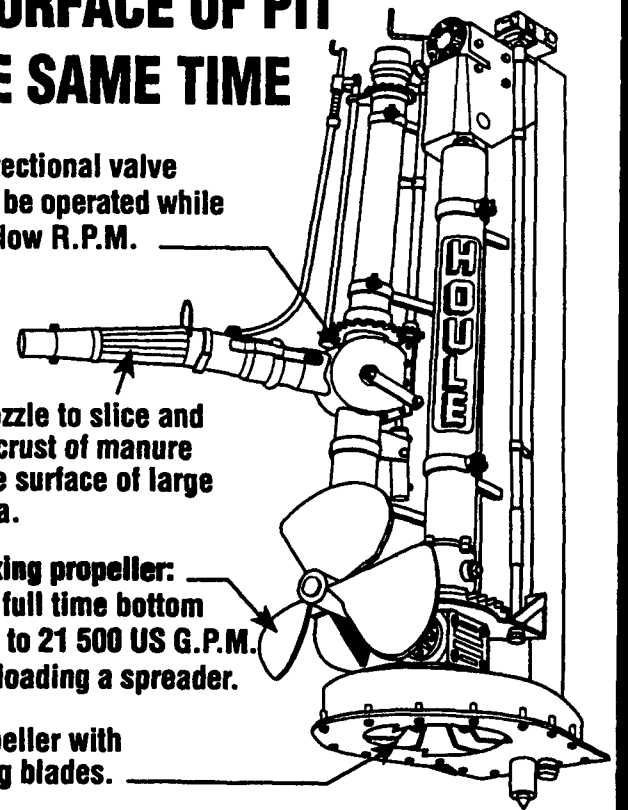
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