



Odor from large hog confinement facilities has been a major concern for many years. To address these concerns, Jennifer Reed, Nutrient Compliance Director for Country View Family Farms, right, and Chris Frame, nutrient management specialist with Hostetter Management Company, are constantly looking for new methods of manure odor control.

## *Aeration Key To Reducing Manure Odors From Sow Operation*

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GILLETT (Bradford Co.) — Manure odor from large farming operations has been a major issue, especially among the rural non-farm public, for many years.

However, for the neighbors of the Pine Hill Sow Farm, located in northern Bradford County, the familiar smell of hog manure has proven to be less offensive over the past year. This is due largely to the ongoing research conducted by Country View Family Farms along with Hostetter Management Company.

In September of 2001, workers at the Pine Hill facility implemented a new aeration system in their manure pit. When spreading began in the spring and summer of 2002, the manure had a less pungent odor, according to area farmers and the workers at the facility.

In fact, operators at the Pine Hill facility reported

that there were no odor complaints to the farm last summer.

“A lack of response — I think indicates that it’s working. I’m proud of this past year when we had no calls complaining about odor,” said Chris Frame, a nutrient management specialist with Hostetter Management Co. LLC.

“Prior to this past year there were always a few calls that would come in.”

The technology is simple. Air from a single five horsepower pump is forced through tubing, which lies at the bottom of the lined lagoon, and is released through four cross-shaped diffusers.

The result is that air is constantly being pumped through the slurry, creating an aerobic condition and reducing the odor. Liquid bacteria are also placed in the manure pits under the barns, which flow into the aerated lagoon.

The addition of liquid bacteria has been tested in-

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