

Offal Composting Meeting

BLOOMSBURG (Columbia Co.) — Small-scale slaughtering operations and farmers interested in learning more about composting butchering waste will want to attend a meeting Tuesday, June 24, at Gensemer's Processing near Bloomsburg. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Gensemer's Processing has been using composting as a means to reduce the amount of offal that needs to be sent for rendering. The composting process not only reduces the volume of waste but also creates a usable product.

Participants will meet at Gensemer's for discussion on composting and to view the compost

system. Afterward, participants will go to the nearby office of Penn State Extension to view a video from Cornell University regarding composting of animal mortality and butchering waste.

To get to Gensemer's from I-80, take Exit 236 Bloomsburg/Lightstreet. Follow Rt. 487 north for about a mile and turn right onto Ridge Road. Go about a quarter mile and Gensemer's Processing is on the right.

For more information on the meeting contact Dave Hartman, extension agent, at (570) 784-6660 or HYPERLINK "mailto:dwh2@psu.edu" dwh2@psu.edu.

Well Drillers Pull Out Of Dairy Farm

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Drillers searching for a new municipal water source on the Paul B. Zimmerman dairy farm near Ephrata apparently haven't found as much water as they'd hoped for.

"It wasn't enough to warrant the cost of developing the well," said East Cocalico Water and Sewer Authority Chairman S. Eugene Heft. "The geologists call the shots," he added, but "it appears there will be no further development of that well."

Heft said the Zimmermans would be reimbursed for damage to their property.

The proposed well had sparked controversy since February, when the township staked an alfalfa field on Zimmerman's 80-acre farm along the Cocalico Creek. The field was one of three test drilling sites identified by Lancaster-based Envirosan Inc.

Zimmerman, fearing that a new well would ruin the dairy he operates with his son, Paul Jr., hired a Harrisburg attorney to fight the project.

Friends and neighbors joined in the outcry.

The township was hesitant to seize the land by eminent domain but argued that it needs to boost water capacity to meet future needs and ensure dependable supplies for current residents.

Zimmerman later decided not to seek an injunction to stop the testing just off Garden Spot Road. "We left them come in," he said.

Drillers arrived May 27 and left June 4, according to Zimmerman. He said testing revealed a groundwater flow of 12 gallons per minute, much less than the 100-gallon range preferred for municipal use.

Heft said the flow was somewhat greater, but not enough to

justify the expense of continuing. Depending on treatment for nitrates and water softening, he noted, it costs \$300,000 to \$400,000 to develop a municipal well.

Dry holes are not unusual, according to Heft.

"We found more water in the other two wells," he noted. The township is waiting for a labora-

tory to test the quality of the water before pursuing landowner negotiations.

"This has been the most controversial issue we've had," he said of the Zimmerman well, but it seems to have worked out for both parties.

"Maybe it was meant to be." *From a June 8 Lancaster Sunday News report.*

Muck Crops Field Day June 16

CELERYVILLE, Ohio — This year's Muck Crops Field Day will be June 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center's (OARDC) Muck Crops Branch in Celeryville.

The 15-acre Muck Crops Branch, two miles south of Willard on Rt. 103, lies in the heart of Ohio's salad vegetable industry. There, rich muck soil (with 20 times more organic matter than typical Ohio soil) yields excellent produce.

The free field day is an excellent opportunity for commercial vegetable farmers, crop advisers, home gardeners and other partic-

ipants to get a taste of what Ohio State University researchers are doing to improve vegetable production in the area, said branch manager Rick Callendar.

Some of these efforts have to do with management practices, such as improving pesticide application technology for peppers and collards, studying planting-date effects on red lettuce coloration, and determining the right spacing for optimum yield and quality of cilantro.

For more information, contact Rick Callendar at (419) 935-1201 or callendar.1@osu.edu.

Farm Pasture Walk June 19

KIRKWOOD (Lancaster Co.) — On June 19, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., there will be a pasture walk at the farm of Arden and Carolyn Landis, located at 667 Puseyville Rd, Kirkwood (two miles south of the Solanco Fairgrounds at the junction of Rt. 472 and Puseyville Road).

The Landis family manages a seasonal organic dairy with 90 cows on 120 acres. They have

been grazing for 10 years.

New this year, they are using shades and have some Italian ryegrass test plots on the farm.

Everyone interested in learning more about grazing is invited. Please pack a lunch. The Landis family will provide drinks.

For more information, contact either the Lancaster County extension office at (717) 394-6851 or the Landis family at (717) 529-6644.

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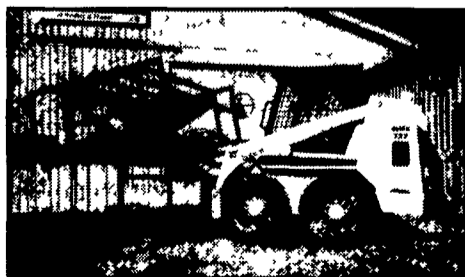
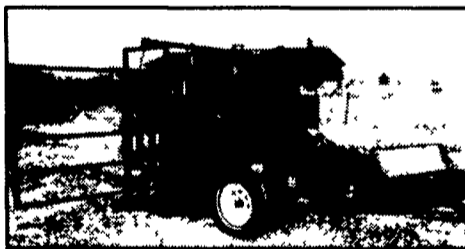
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