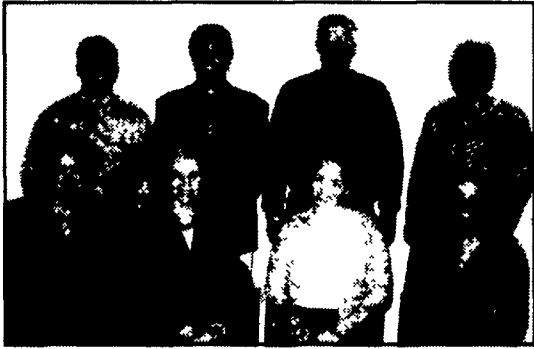


Seminar Discusses Poultry Composting To Control Catastrophic Disease

CHARLENE M. SHUPP ESPENSHADE
Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.)
 Poultry industry representatives

gathered at Kreider's Restaurant in Manheim Monday to hear Dr. Lewis Carr, University of Maryland, discuss a composting trial to prepare the Delmarva region

Dairymen's Club Celebrates 25 Years; Honors Crothers With Service Award



From left, The Penn State Dairymen's Club elected new board members and officers at the Annual Meeting. Front row, Nicole Over, Secretary/Treasurer; Jean Kummer, President; Carrie Bomgardner, 2003 Vice President; Daphne Doll. Back row, David Lentz; Owen Bewley, Milk Bottle Chair; Logan Bower; Suzy Demeester, 2004 Vice President. Missing from photo: Vickie Ansell.

for disease outbreaks.

Avian Influenza (A.I.) and other diseases were the driving force behind organizing the demonstration to find an economically efficient way to handle the birds in a bio-secure manner.

The solution Dr. Carr demonstrated for the Maryland poultry industry was composting the birds in the poultry house instead of incineration or burial.

As stated in his paper on "Guidelines for In-House Composting of Catastrophic Poultry Mortality," Carr writes,

"Composting of mortalities on the farm appears to be the most acceptable because it averts potential groundwater pollution from burial, avoids high fuel cost and potential air pollution with incineration, and prevents the potential disease spread associated with transportation to landfills and the associated transport costs and tipping fees. Properly done, in-house composting of poultry carcasses is a cost-effective and biosecure means of inactivating pathogenic organisms in both the carcass and litter."

During his talk, Carr said another benefit to composting was that "we are treating the litter and the house at the same time we are composting the birds. As far as we are concerned, we are doing two things at one shot," instead of treating the litter and birds separately as would be the case in alternative methods.

Carr also said, "Composting of the contaminated litter and carcasses destroys pathogens in poultry houses, thus reducing the potential for disease spread."

The composting process as Carr stressed is a "cooking process" and when the proper "environment is provided, "the organisms will have a banquet."

In regards to A.I., research shows that the virus can be inactivated at 140 degrees in 10 minutes or 133 degrees in 15-20 minutes. Composting will achieve these temperatures, with an average compost temperature between 135-145 degrees.

Carr also said, "Another reason to compost — We know what these birds do when we compost. Under the ground, we do not."

In the composting demonstration, Carr's team organized three different ways to compost the birds, layering the birds and the litter, shredding the birds and piling the birds and litter, and mixing and piling the birds.

The resulting personnel and time needed to set up the entire compost windrow ranged between 2-4 people and between 4-7 hours, dependent on the method chosen. Dr. Carr said this proved that this option was not as labor intensive as believed.

After the composting process is completed, Carr said the demonstration compost was land ap-

plied and incorporated. The time used to compost this pile was about three months. If the compost pile is moved out of the house when it is ready to be turned for the first time, the amount of time a house is tied up is about three weeks.

At the conclusion of his speech, Carr encouraged the audience that the results he gave were accurate for the Delmarva area and should consider organizing a demonstration in a non-emergency situation to see how it works under Pennsylvania conditions.

Carr also stressed that the demonstration has helped Maryland because they have knowledge of how this process works in their state and demonstrated its worth as a viable option to their veterinarians.

"We have firsthand knowledge now on what had to be done. That was the reason for the demonstration. The issue that we had to demonstrate to our industry is that this was viable, economical, and I think we have most all the company vets on our side now. It used to not be that way."



The Poage Grant-in-Aid Award is given to freshmen students who excel in dairy cattle judging. This year's winners, Raechel Kilgore and Emily Yeiser were recognized, along with past winners. Front row: Josh Hushon, Raechel Kilgore, Emily Yeiser, David Lentz. Back row: Andrew Reed, Jacob Hushon, Chris Connelly.

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — During the Annual Meeting, attendees heard an update on the Penn State Dairy Science Club from President Kim Matson, recognized the 2003 Penn State Dairy Cattle Judging Teams accomplishments and congratulated this year's Poage Grant-in-Aid recipients, Raechel Kilgore and Emily Yeiser.

The annual Distinguished Service Award winner was Joy Crothers. She, and her husband Tom, own and operate the Brown Switch Brown Swiss and White Switch Holstein farm in Chester County. While at Penn State, Joy served as Dairy Science Club secretary, the Penn State Dairy Princess and co-editor of the Dairyman yearbook before graduating with a degree in home economics. Joy is currently serving as president of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Club.

Beth Raney, Centre County, was recognized for serving several years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Penn State Dairymen's Club. Membership elected Logan Bower, Perry County; Vickie Ansell, Fayette County; and Daphne Doll, York County to three-year Board of Director terms.

HAY, STRAW & GRAIN SALE
 Every Thursday at 12 NOON
Vintage Sales
Stables, Inc.
 (Rt. 30, Paradise, PA)
 For more information
717/442-4181
717/768-8204

Generator Systems
 Diesel or Propane, 10-500 KW,
 Agricultural and Industrial.
 New, Used or Reconditioned
Martin Diesel Services
Shop (570) 658-5303
Office (570) 922-4494

Hydro Fire Outdoor Wood Furnace

- Safe, Clean and Thermostatically Controlled Wood Heat
- Heat 100% of Your Home, Domestic Water, Shop, Pool and More!

Hydro Fire HFSS36 Firebox & Water Jacket Stainless Steel.
\$2,695

SPECIAL prices on stock units only

Find Out How To Eliminate Your Heating Bills

- Learn how the Classic can heat your home, shop, pool, domestic hot water and more.
- Dual Fuel Option and Stainless Steel Firebox models available.
- Be energy independent.

SPECIAL PRICING CLASSIC OL-4436 Leftover Units Only

Free Financing on Approved Credit.

Lawn Care of PA
311 Willow St., Terre Hill, PA 17581 (717) 445-8431

— Ceiling systems designed for your dairy, swine, and poultry facilities, as well — as shops, warehouses, garages, arenas, and more.

Tired of working in a cold, noisy shop?

These ceiling systems are designed to hold any amount of insulation, and with insulation above, produce sound reduction qualities much greater than steel.

Is the banding in your hog or poultry barn deteriorating?

Let us replace them with our heavier polyester bands which do not stretch or become brittle over time.

Are you frustrated with the birds in your implementation shed?

Get the problem under control with a triply ceiling, as well as greatly improving the lighting.

Contemplating a drop ceiling?

Demand a triply ceiling above your drop ceiling if there is insulation being installed. This will serve as a vapor barrier along with permanently preventing falling insulation.

Providing the Ag industry with a very durable, attractive, waterproof, noncorrosive, alternative to conventional ceilings at a fraction of the cost.
From 20¢/Sq. Ft. Installed

MATC MID-ATLANTIC TRIPLY CEILINGS
MYERSTOWN, PA - (888) 238-9954
FAX (717) 866-0087
"Your source for quality, durable, & economical ceiling systems"

A service formerly provided by - Weaver Insulators -