



Snyder County Conservation District

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No-Till & Manure Field Day Held on Poultry Farm

A field day was held on WindView Farm owned by Mac and Melody Curtis, 1051 Dundore Road, Port Trevorton, PA, on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Approximately 80 people attended.

Topics demonstrated or discussed during the Field Day:

- Equipment Displays & Field Demonstrations
 - Field & Vegetable Crop Equipment
 - Manure Spreaders
- How to Make No-Till Work & Protecting the Water
- Manure Spreader Calibration
- A Working Poultry Manure Burner



Mac, (standing at far right of above photo) is speaking to the group during the 2009 No-Till & Manure Field Day on his and Melody's poultry and crop farm.



Barry Spangler (speaking with fact sheet in hand in the photo above) describes the types of manure production and spreading records recommended for basic PA water quality compliance. Each farmer was given blank forms to use. Pik-Rite of Lewisburg, PA, Glen Beidler of Freeburg, PA, and Rachel Naylor, SCCD Nutrient Management Technician, helped out with the manure spreader and calibration demonstrations.

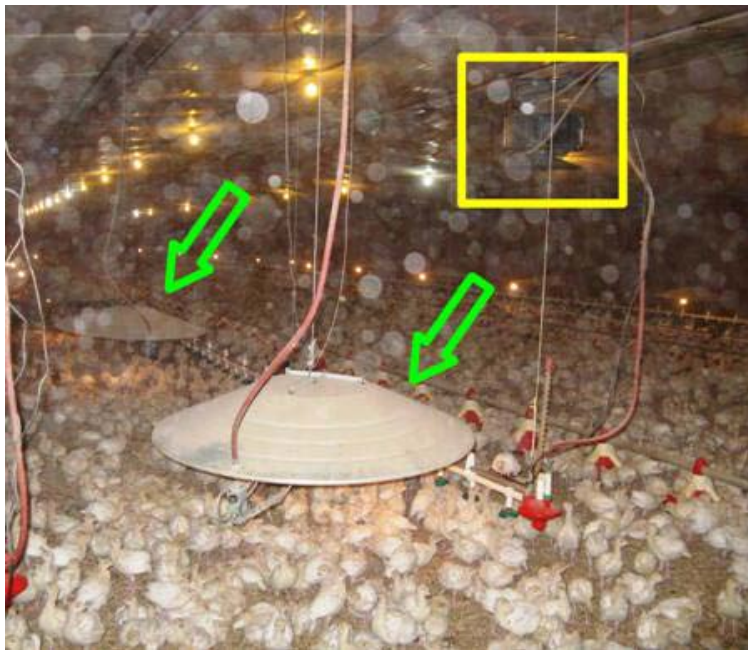


Mac and Melody Curtis use the newly installed burner to heat their two turkey houses.

Poultry manure produced on the farm enters the burner from a bin not shown (photo on left). The burner heats the water in the boiler above it. Hot water is pumped through special hoses that transfer the heat to the turkey houses. (Photo taken in May 2009)

The hot water is carried in special hoses to the turkey house located on the ceiling as shown on the photo on the right. Heat then transfers to one of the hanging heaters. (Photo taken in June 2009)





Above: Young turkeys enjoying heat from traditional brooders (green arrows) and one of the additional ceiling heaters (yellow box). (Photo taken in May 2009)

Note: You can go to YouTube and watch a brief video about the Curtis' poultry manure burner at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqDosLkgnig>.



Joel Myers (speaking at far left), former Technical Coordinator for the PA No-Till Alliance and current independent no-till coordinator, speaks about the advantages of no-till, how to prepare fields for no-tilling, and ways to keep the system going to improve soil health and water quality.



Kevin Smoker (speaking at left in red jacket), Binkley & Hurst Sales Representative, discusses no-till planting parts and maintenance among the attendees.



Hooper, Inc. and Valley Ag & Turf prepare to show off their no-till drills during the Field Day.



Whitney Scott (tractor driver), Delaware Valley College Horticulturalist and Alan Ard (sitting) of Ard's Farm Market west of Lewisburg, PA, demonstrate a no-till vegetable transplanter in a stand of sorghum-sudangrass during the field event. The transplanter is available for interested farmers for crops such as pumpkins, melons, etc.

Contact either the Snyder County Conservation District (570-837-3000) or the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Middleburg Field Office, (570-837-0007, x3) for more information regarding no-tilling on your farm.

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