



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

VOLUME XXV

MAY 1974

NO. 5

Beat Fertilizer "Crunch" With On-The-Farm Storage

At least part of the expected fertilizer problem this spring will be a shortage of transportation and storage, according to Kenneth E. Felton, Extension agricultural engineer at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Apparently many fertilizer dealers have their storage space full and will not be able to get any more material from their suppliers until they deliver some fertilizer to farmers, Felton points out.

"Farmers could help alleviate the fertilizer crunch by taking delivery of some of their spring fertilizer needs right now," Felton points out in a publication released last week by the University's agricultural engineering department.

This may not be as convenient as having fertilizer delivered and applied directly on the fields, he says, but it may mean the difference between having enough fertilizer and having a shortage. Some dealers may also give a discount for early delivery.

Storing bagged fertilizer on farms is not usually much of a problem; a dry floor should do the job. Depending on the floor and kind of bags, you may need to lay down a plastic film to keep the fertilizer from absorbing moisture.

Bulk fertilizer can also be stored on many farms, Felton believes. If you have a dry, flat concrete or tight wooden floor under roof, you may be able to store a large portion of your spring fertilizer needs just by dumping it on the floor. If the floor is not large, you may have to put some kind of retainers around the fertilizer. In the publication released last week, Felton has sketched simple plans for inexpensive retaining walls that you can build.

There are certain precautions you should keep in mind. For example, if you are using a haymow for fertilizer storage, you should not pile it more than about 1/7 the height of hay, since fertilizer is about seven times as heavy as baled hay, for which the haymow was possible designed.

If you would like to have a copy of Felton's mimeographed pamphlet, call your county's Cooperative Extension agent, listed in the telephone book under County Government, and ask for Agricultural Engineering release No. 64. "On-Farm Fertilizer Storage."

New Tractor Safety Standard Proposed

Another benchmark appears near at hand in efforts of the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration to make farming operations safer, according

to Dr. Larry E. Stewart, Extension safety and farm machinery specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Dr. Stewart reported that OSHA published in the *Federal Register* on Feb. 4 a proposed standard that would require all farm tractors of more than 20 engine horsepower, manufactured after Aug. 31, 1974, to be equipped with a roll-over protective structure (ROPS) and seat belts.

The Maryland Extension agricultural engineer has mailed a copy of the *Federal Register* published proposal, along with a letter of explanation, to every county Extension office in the state. So persons desiring more information may visit their local county Extension agricultural agent to read the proposal in detail.

Anyone with views and arguments concerning the proposed safety regulation is invited to send written statements to the following address, prior to March 6:

Office of Standards
U.S. Dept. of Labor
Room 504
400 First St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Commenting favorably on the proposed regulation, Dr. Stewart noted that more than 800 persons were killed while operating farm tractors in 1973. The death toll last year in Maryland from the same cause was 18. He estimated that 90 percent of these deaths would not have occurred if the tractors involved had been equipped with roll-guards and seat belts.

A check with officials of the labor and industry division of the state Department of Licensing and Regulation indicates it will be only a matter of time following federal adoption before similar regulations will be enforced in Maryland.

Strange Tradition In St. Andrews

St. Andrews, Scotland, where golf was born, has many strange traditions.

For instance, a "free-man" of the ancient city has the right to spread his washing on the 18th fairway.

Sunday Star
Dec. 9, 1973