Post 362 of the American Legion recently donated jackets to the Perquimans County High School basketball team. Representing the Post, above

left, is Curtis Lightfoot, who is presenting a jacket to team member Brad Frierson and Coach Calvin Webster. (Photo by Val Short)

Hog production - expensive enterprise

By TONY SHORT **District Conservationist Chowan and Perguimans Counties**

Raising hogs in confinement is an expensive operation, as any hog producer will tell you. The hogs must be properly cared for. They can neither get too hot nor too cool. They must be disease free and they must be well fed.

When many hogs are put together in a confinement house, some means must be made to get rid of their waste. A hog house is like a small town in that it needs some kind of waste treatment plant.

The waste treatment system usually involves a water filled lagoon or pond. Some municipalities use the same type system.

This lagoon is dug in the ground to a certain depth, width and length

based upon the number and wight of the hogs present. The waste from the hogs if flushed from the house to the lagoon, where it is acted upon by

The bacteria help break down the

Any lagooon has a certain storage limit. Once this limit is reached, it must be pumped down by spraying it on the land. This requires an irrigation system, which is an added expense.

This integral part of the treatment system is often overlooked. Many lagoons are left to overflow, instead of being pumped out. This not only adds harmful pollutants to watercourses, it is a waste of nutrients that can be used for fertilizer.

Most effluent analysis show that the waste water is high in nitrogen.

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A lagoon for 400 top hogs produces enough nitrogen to fertilize 15 acres of corn at a rate of 150 pounds per

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture in Raleigh will ananlyze a sample of waste water to determine the actual fertilizer content for three dollars per sample.

Farmers in Northampton County devised a way to avoid the high expenses of buying an irrigation system to apply the waste to the land. One individual bought a system and now contracts with local farmers to pump out their lagoons.

The value of the nutrients applied for fertilzer outweighs the cost of the

Lagoons are pumped out because State and National laws mandate that no effluent can be discharged from them except under severe rainall conditions (a 25 year storm). The Soil Conservation Service designs them based upon this

WHAT'S YOUR EYE O?

Why not test your eye I.Q. by taking this short quiz?

1. More prone to eye accidents are (a) children (b) junior high school youngsters adults?

2. If you get a speck in your eye (a) rub it (b) lift upper lid over lower one (c) blink quickly?

3. This percentage of blindness is preventable (a) 25 percent (b) 35 percent (c) 50 percent?



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