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OCTOBER 23, 2006

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DONATION TO HELP PUMP SEPTIC TANKS

Springfield News-Leader

Posted on October 23, 2006

URL: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061023/NEWS01/610230359/1007/NEWS01)

[leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061023/NEWS01/610230359/1007/NEWS01](http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061023/NEWS01/610230359/1007/NEWS01)

The James River Basin Partnership announced a program Sunday morning to help homeowners in the six-county basin area to have their septic tanks pumped out.

Thanks to a donation of more than \$51,000 from Bass Pro Shops, the partnership hopes to be able to make it possible for 1 million gallons of sewage to be pumped from septic tanks, diverting it from possibly contaminating area water sources, said Dave Coonrod, Greene County presiding commissioner and president emeritus of the James River Basin Partnership.

The partnership launched its "Pump A Million" campaign at Bass Pro Shops with a check presentation from the store. The money was raised during the store's annual garage sale for conservation in June.

People living within the basin region in six counties — Greene, Christian, Webster, Taney, Barry and Lawrence — can apply for assistance to have their septic tanks pumped out. Last year, the partnership was able to help pump 300,000 gallons of sewage, Coonrod said.

"It is to everyone's advantage for septic tanks to be pumped out every two years," said Coonrod. "Otherwise effluent backs up and can pollute the groundwater."

To learn more or to apply for assistance through the program, call 1-888-924-WATER or visit www.jrbp.missouristate.edu/programs.html.

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BEAVER LAKE: SEEDY SEWER SYSTEM A CONCERN

By LIZ BOCH Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Posted on October 22, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/170391/>

PRAIRIE CREEK — Wayne Allen walked through an unlocked chain-link gate Thursday and pointed to waist-high weeds and 20-foot oak trees losing their leaves on the crisp fall day.

The trees and overgrown grass and weeds are growing in a sand filter, a gravel pit that is half of the decentralized sewer system at Sunset Bay, a subdivision east of Rogers. The system's filters are supposed to be clear of vegetation so pumps can filter wastewater coming from Sunset Bay's seven homes.

Five filters have been abandoned, leaving partially treated wastewater to drain into a nearby creek that runs south for 1, 000 feet before emptying directly into Beaver Lake.

"It's essentially raw sewage," said Allen, district manager for Benton County Water District No. 1. "This should have been mowed from day one."

The water district isn't responsible for the system because it doesn't maintain the subdivision's sewer system, Allen said. Sunset Bay's property owners association was given that responsibility by developer Wesley Kent Neff, whose company, Summit One LLC, declared bankruptcy in September.

Benton County officials said they aren't accountable for the sewer system because they can't enforce Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality wastewater regulations.

The Environmental Quality Department doesn't have jurisdiction because it doesn't have stipulations in its permit process requiring applicants to prove long-term financial stability, said officials of both the county and the agency.

Benton County water officials have complained about the situation, so County Judge Gary Black has discussed ways to prevent such problems in the future, including requiring the county to approve all decentralized sewer systems.

"It's kind of like [Hurricane] Katrina. You don't ever really plan on those things until it happens," Black said. "We do know they have to be controlled and maintained."

HOW THE SYSTEMS WORK Sunset Bay's plans included 136 homes when the project was approved by the Benton County Planning Board in February 2000. The subdivision has only 11, seven of which are part of the decentralized sewer system. If any of the homes using the system are sold and water accounts are terminated, the water district won't restore service for the new owners, Allen said. Their recourse would be to install a septic tank.

Decentralized sewer systems are increasingly common in unincorporated areas of Benton and Washington counties that lack city sewer service, said Tom Bartlett, owner of Aqua Tech Systems, which builds and operates decentralized systems.

They operate like small municipal sewer systems. In the case of Sunset Bay, wastewater is routed to filters, where it is chemically treated and cleaned. Electric pumps bring the effluent to a drip irrigation system above the filters. The water runs through pipes and drains into the soil.

The systems allow more homes on the same acreage than septic tanks because septic tanks, unlike decentralized systems, do not treat water to city standards, Bartlett said. "It is the next kind of infrastructure in the country," Bartlett said. "On a decentralized sewer system, it takes 15 to 20 homes on the system to equal the bacteria level of one septic tank."

WHAT CAN GO WRONG Problems can arise when operators do not have the equipment or knowledge to maintain the systems, said Scott Borman, plant manager of the Benton-Washington Regional Public Water Authority, commonly known as Two-Ton. Borman, who served on the Benton County Planning Board, said homeowners don't have the ability to maintain decentralized systems.

"To turn this over to them is just crazy," Borman said. "Property owners associations 99 percent of the time are not going to have a licensed operator looking at these."

Sunset Bay's covenants indicate the association is responsible for the system, but Neff said members haven't paid their dues that fund system maintenance.

"We tried to have a POA meeting, but no one wanted to talk to me," Neff said. "The only management of it is to hire someone to maintain it. A POA is more than capable of doing it."

Neff, who lives in the subdivision but plans to move, said the system is operating adequately. Someone needs to maintain the land, he said. "Right now it's nothing a bit of Roundup wouldn't cure," he said. "The project's in bankruptcy and there's no more money to fund it."

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE ? Borman crafted a decentralized wastewater application form after representatives from Grandview Heights at Beaver Lake, a 15-story condominium project, suggested last year that they would build a decentralized system. According to the form, which the county has approved, applicants must submit the name of the system's licensed operator, the facility's location and expected capacity, and proof of financial solvency. Benton County doesn't have to approve the applications, Borman said. The county just needs to examine them.

"We just asked for additional information," he said. "I don't think there's an approval mechanism or authority that the county has."

Borman said it's the state's job to enforce compliance because wastewater permits are issued by the Environmental Quality Department.

The financial solvency section of the application comes directly from Arkansas Annotated Code 8-5-703, Borman said.

The law, Act 336 of 1995, requires that the department "not permit or register any common sewage system serving two or more occupied lots... without the applicant demonstrating its ability to cover costs for five years."

"ADEQ needs to step up and do their job," he said. "You can quote me on that."

But Keith Brown, manager of the permit branch of the department's water division, said the law applies to operators who chronically don't comply.

A letter sent by the Environmental Quality Department to Neff in August 2005 states that the facility had been operating without a permit since Sept. 28, 2003, violating the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act.

The letter requested that Neff correct seven violations noted by a department field inspector, and stated that Neff provide proof that he corrected the violations in a written response.

But the department doesn't require operators to prove extended financial solvency when applying for a permit, Brown said. Such permits are up for renewal every five years, and Sunset Bay's permit has lapsed, he said. "We don't have any current regulations or requirements for long-term financial stability," Brown said. "Our permit stands alone outside their [city or county] jurisdiction." Brown said the department can't do anything to force Neff to comply because his subdivision declared bankruptcy. "In this case, there is no one to fault," he said. "The county can take whatever action they deem necessary."

ATTEMPTS TO CORRECT

Area officials offer different solutions to prevent a future Sunset Bay.

Public entities should be the only groups permitted to operate decentralized sewer systems, said John Sampier, executive director of the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority.

Such entities have proven their financial stability and can guard against bankruptcy, he said.

Sampier has been approached by representatives of Grandview Heights to contract with the authority to operate their system.

“If ‘Joe Schmo’ was hired by the developer to operate the system for him and the developer goes bankrupt, the people who work for him don’t have a job,” Sampier said. “While there are no regulatory requirements, everyone is best served by a public entity operating these systems.”

Not all government entities are equipped to maintain the facilities, Borman said. The authority and Benton County Water District No. 1 both have been considering operating the system planned for Grandview Heights, but neither has the equipment, he said.

“It can be run publicly or privately,” Borman said.

Washington County’s Rural Development Authority allows developers, public and private groups, and property owner associations to operate decentralized systems. But the operators must be bonded and the authority must approve all applications, said Rhonda Hulse, Washington County’s public utility coordinator. “We want to make sure they will be financially fine,” Hulse said. Washington County passed its decentralized sewer system ordinance in July 2005. Each system is audited annually. The ordinance requires that a percentage of the operator’s revenue be dedicated to reserves in case of an emergency, she said. “We don’t want to get in a position where if one of these fails we have to come up with the money out of our pocket,” she said.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE ? Allen said it could cost as much as \$ 500, 000 to fix the broken decentralized sewer system in Sunset Bay. Neff said the system is working and his companies have no more money to pay for repairs. “I’m in a Catch-22,” Neff said. “There’s nothing wrong with the systems. A tree fell on a fence. It hasn’t been abandoned.” As long as new homes don’t connect to the system, it will continue to operate for an indefinite period of time. In the meantime, Allen wants the county to define its regulations. “If Benton County came in and did what Washington County is doing, I could support that because there’s an avenue if someone files bankruptcy,” Allen said. “I hate to be crude, but it will take toilet paper floating in Beaver Lake.”

To contact this reporter: lboch@arkansasonline. com

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THE BEAUTY OF CONSERVATION

By John Taylor Springfield News-Leader

Posted on October 22, 2006

URL: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061022/NEWS01/610220435/1007>

Artist brings national tour to Springfield to promote clean water.

Area children learned about environmental stewardship while showing off their art skills at Wonders of Wildlife on Saturday morning.

The fish and wildlife museum was the latest stop for artist Wyland and the Clean Water National Tour, whose aim is to join science and art to show how each individual can make a difference in protecting water quality.

As sprinkles of rain fell, Wyland painted a mural with help from winners of the Celebrate Our Blue Planet art contest sponsored by the Springfield Regional Arts Council.

"If (children) see the beauty in nature, they'll want to help preserve it," Wyland said. "It's real subliminal. They don't realize what they're contributing."

One contest winner, Kristi Anna Austin, 11, of Nixa, has been active in conservation for much of her life.

Her mother, Deolinda Austin, said her daughter made \$750 through a one-year recycling effort and donated the money for crayfish preservation when the Austins lived in California.

Tired of that state's pollution, Kristi Anna talked her parents, who are retired, into moving to Missouri.

"I wanted to see clean water. This is the Show-Me State, so show me some clean water," she said.

Now, she's making a pond for salamanders, toads and frogs on her parents' property, and she's a member of a number of environmental groups.

"Save the whales, save the quails — there's so many organizations," Deolinda Austin said.

Kristi Anna's parents are fans of Wyland's work, and she met the artist once before, when she was 3. She doesn't remember it, she says, but her parents have the pictures to prove it.

Each child picked an animal to paint on the mural.

"It's a masterpiece," said Wyland as he watched the children work. "Picasso said he painted his whole life to paint like a child again."

A child's art, he said, is a window on his or her thoughts.

The completed mural was donated to Wonders of Wildlife.

"I think it's going to be one of the most soulful things in there," Wyland said.

This is the third year for the tour. The first two years focused on the oceans.

Wyland said as a diver he watched the coral reefs deteriorate because of pollution. That's when he decided to use his talent to promote water quality.

Educating children is key to that effort, he said.

"If you're ... going to save oceans, you've got to get the people who are going to inherit it involved."

Steve Creech, project director for the Wyland Foundation, said one of the goals of the tour, which started in Minnesota and will end in New Orleans, is to get people to commit to saving water.

That can be accomplished through simple measures such as repairing leaky water faucets, he said.

Gary Ellison, Wonders of Wildlife public relations director, said more than 3,000 children have visited the museum since Oct. 13, the tour's first day in Springfield. The tour concludes today.

At a banquet Friday night, Wyland painted five pieces of art that sold for \$1,500 each, Ellison said. That money will be split evenly among the museum, the arts council and the Wyland Foundation.

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COODY INSPIRED TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT AFTER TRIP TO ALASKA

By ADAM WALLWORTH Northwest Arkansas Times
Posted on October 21, 2006
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/46291/>

After seeing the effects of global warming first-hand, Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody has a renewed desire to continue environmentally friendly policies that can be an example for the state.

A sense of urgency and a deeper understanding of the science behind global warming are among the things brought home by Coody, who just returned from the U. S. Mayors Conference in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was also among 20 mayors who were flown to Anchorage, Alaska, after the conference to see the effects of global warming.

“ It was pretty impressive and sobering, ” he said of the visit, which included a presentation by the mayor of Shishmaref, a small village that may have to be evacuated because of rising temperatures.

The village, inhabited for 4, 000 years, may have to be abandoned because rising temperatures are thawing sea ice, which allows higher storm surges to reach shore. The storm surges are more damaging because of thawing permafrost, which makes the shoreline more vulnerable to erosion, according to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration’s Arctic Change Web site.

Coody is also taking over as chairman of the U. S. Mayors ’ Water Resources Committee.

“ All cities are responsible for our contributions to climate change, so all cities have an obligation to do what we can to reduce our impact, ” Coody said. “ Because we will all be suffering the consequences if we don’t and a lot of places are already suffering the consequences. ”

Coody says he has some initiatives he is working on, though

he is not ready to make them public. He is planning to host a statewide conference here next spring, which will focus on “ the new economy of sustainability. ” Green building design and energy efficiency are just two parts of the equation, Coody said. He is working with the University of Arkansas and Wal-Mart on possible partnerships.

“ Wal-Mart’s simply out to change the world. That’s all, and if anybody can, they can, ” he said. “ I’m very impressed with their environmental and sustainability initiatives. ”

One of the initiatives already in place include using LED traffic signals, which significantly reduce energy consumption compared to traditional lights, Coody said. The city is also in the process of adding a biodiesel fuel farm for the city fleet and buying lowemission vehicles for staff.

Coody said he is in the planning stages, trying to find the resources and develop a plan on how to proceed. He said he is also “ having conversations with some heavy hitters internationally to talk about how Fayetteville can do its part to lead the state in climate protection and good environmental stewardship. ” The U. S. Mayors Conference and the mayor of Anchorage paid for the respective trips, Coody said.

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LOCAL INVENTOR MAY PROVIDE MEANS FOR RECYCLING PLASTIC FOAM

By Jennifer Turner The Benton County Daily Record
Posted on October 11, 2006
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/brog/News/40178/>

BENTON COUNTY — The Benton County Solid Waste District is embarking on a pilot program that uses a local inventor's product to recycle and reuse plastic foam products.

Sean Stephan of Bentonville demonstrated how his invention works Tuesday at the Benton County Solid Waste District facility near Centerton. The demonstration was simple. Stephan dropped chunks of plastic foam into a glass full of his chemical invention. Within minutes, the plastic foam disappeared.

Stephan developed the chemical two years ago and donated it to Rogers-based Advanced Environmental Technologies Inc., which has a patent pending on the product that it calls Hydro-Sol.

Now, through a partnership with AET, the Benton County Solid Waste District is studying the feasibility of using the breakthrough invention to offer plastic foam recycling countywide.

Americans throw away approximately 1, 369 tons of plastic foam products — fast-food cups, packing peanuts and disposable coolers — every year. Approximately 25 percent of landfill space is filled by plastic foam, which takes up to 500 years to begin to break down.

The bio-based chemical that includes orange oil and water breaks plastic foam down to a resulting polymer to be reused in asphalt, plastics and cement.

Benton County Judge Gary Black has agreed to test the use of the polymer on a county road as part of the pilot program.

“ Benton County is leading the nation — the world — on recycling Styrofoam with no energy, ” Stephan said.

Unlike other processes of recycling plastic foam products, AET's process of extracting the polymer requires little to no energy or equipment.

For commercial use, for example, a 250-gallon cart might be set up at a store or warehouse. Several gallons of Hydro-Sol would be poured into the cart and plastic foam would be tossed in, where it would be broken down within minutes. Later, the polymer would be removed and leftover water reused.

The water-based chemical can also be sprayed onto existing landfills to break down plastic foam that is already there.

“ This is very important for us, ” Stephan said. “ This is the type of environmentally sound chemistry that we want. ”

AET's owner, Josh Hutchinson, said the chemical is being used in Benton County for the first time anywhere.

“ It's exciting, ” he said. “ It's exciting to see the state also excited about it. ”

Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality attended the demonstration. Recycling coordinators Michelle Gillham and Betsy Spetich plan to watch the pilot program and hopefully expand the use of Hydro-Sol statewide.

The Benton County Solid Waste District is working with just one designated vendor during the pilot program but plans to accept plastic foam from other companies and individuals in the future.

Deputy Director Wendy Eckman said the program would likely be offered free of charge to individuals. Businesses would be charged a fee to recycle large amounts of foam.

Hydro-Sol is safe enough to be used on your hands and, if spilled or put into a landfill, releases no harmful agents into the ground or air.

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BASS PRO CASTS A WIDER NET

By [Didi Tang](#) Springfield News-Leader

Posted on October 22, 2006

URL: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061022/BUSINESS/610220359/1003>

Outdoor mecca to open four stores within weeks, 10 more in '07.

It's time for celebration, and Bass Pro Shops knows how to throw a party.

With stars such as NASCAR driver Martin Truex Jr. and TV host Jimmy Houston in attendance, the Springfield retailer of outdoor products is opening four new stores before Thanksgiving, creating a buzz wherever it goes.

"It's great. Macon, Georgia, is very excited to have Bass Pro Shops joining our community, said Ruth Sykes of Macon-Bibb County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Thursday, Bass Pro will add a 120,000-square-foot retail store to an existing distribution center in Macon.

In Lee County, Fla., the Springfield retailer will open a 123,000-square-foot store in Fort Myers on Nov. 2.

"There's a lot of excitement in the area about it," said D.T. Minich, director of tourism for Lee County, Fla.

"The public is wondering what it would look like," Minich said. "A lot of local flavors are incorporated in the store."

The first new Bass Pro store for this fall opened Thursday in San Antonio, anchoring The Rim, a 700-acre mixed-use development.

The last one to open this fall will be in Garland, Texas, on Nov. 16.

Next year, the company expects to add another 10 stores — the most in one year — including the first Bass Pro store in California and the first Bass Pro Shop in New England.

That means, by the end of 2007, the empire Johnny Morris built out of a liquor store in Springfield will extend from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., to Foxborough, Mass., and from Toronto to Miami.

The company — founded in 1972 — now has 59 stores that are open, under construction or planned.

The success can partly be attributed to the uniqueness of each store and visual appeals, said Larry Whiteley, a Bass Pro spokesman.

"Every store is totally different," he said. "It's not like Wal-Mart. It's not like any other store."

In Lee County, Fla., Munich said Bass Pro spent time to study the local community and its history and has incorporated local elements into the store.

"It's going to be a fantastic attraction for us," Whiteley said.

The Fort Myers store will reflect South Florida, said Whiteley, whereas the San Antonio store will have a desert feel.

As for the Macon store, there are "a lot of water mills," he said.

Though each store sports a unique theme, they share one thing in common: shopping is far from the only thing you can do in a Bass Pro store.

It is "part museum, part art gallery, part education, conservation and entertainment center," as the company has described its stores.

With aquariums, waterfalls and wildlife murals, a Bass Pro shop is a place that "people would drive a long way to come to," Whiteley said.

Sykes of Macon, who has traveled to Atlanta to shop at a Bass Pro store, agrees.

"This is what we call shoppertainment," she said. "(Bass Pro) really captures a great opportunity.

Unlike shopping in a warehouse setting, going to a Bass Pro shop is an experience, she said.

"I will go and take the children to a Bass Pro store," Sykes said. "When (my husband) is shopping, we can walk around and look at aquariums."

No wonder Bass Pro retail stores are often promoted, not only by Springfield but also by other communities they are in, as a tourism destination.

"It's going to be a major tourism draw for us," said Minich of Lee County. "We're going to promote the heck out of it."

So is Macon, said Sykes.

"Sports, outdoor recreation are so popular in the American culture that we hope tourists will see this Bass Pro shop in Macon as a destination," said Sykes, who calls the new retail store a "tourism product."

In Springfield, the company's flagship store has been a major lure for tourists.

"It's the number one tourist attraction for Springfield," said Susan Wade, spokeswoman for the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"With 4 million visitors a year, it is the number one tourist attraction in Missouri," she said.

That more stores are springing up around the country does not appear to hurt the Springfield store, Wade said.

It might even help promote Springfield, she said.

"Bass Pro shoppers like certain things," Wade said. "To get an opportunity to see the store in Springfield is appealing to them."

Said Whiteley: "The one in Springfield is the mecca, the big one they want to come to."

Minich even compares Morris to the famed Walton family, who founded the giant retailer of Wal-Mart out of Bentonville, Ark.

"It's kind of like that," Minich said. "(Morris) puts Springfield on the map."

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AROUND THE FARM: PESTICIDE-APPLICATOR CLASS SCHEDULED

By ROBERT L. SEAY The Benton County Daily Record

Posted on October 22, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/Agriculture/41215/>

The application of restricted-use pesticides commonly used for controlling weeds, brush, insects and other pests requires that agriculture producers obtain certification through programs sanctioned by the Arkansas State Plant Board.

Bordering Missouri and Oklahoma as we do, conflicting information regarding product regulations often occurs because these may differ somewhat between states.

The bottom line is that farm chemicals that are labeled as "Restricted Use" by Arkansas will require the applicator to be certified, even though products may have been purchased elsewhere without a license. The regulation is based on the site where the chemical is used, rather than the point of purchase.

Another interesting change is in the number of small-acreage operations popping up throughout northwest Arkansas. Weeds, brush and other pests are common problems, regardless of the acreage. Many new rural residents find the pesticide training to be worthwhile in becoming comfortable with pestmanagement tools, therefore helping them to better manage their property.

In cooperation with the State Plant Board, the Benton County Cooperative Extension Service has scheduled the first privateapplicator training class for the 2007 season. The twohour class will begin at 6: 30 p. m. Dec. 5 at the Public Services Building Auditorium on Arkansas Highway 102 West in Bentonville.

The December training session is usually well attended because many individuals realize that waiting until spring often results in a delay in receiving licenses. For this reason, if certification or recertification is needed, it is usually more comfortable to get it taken care of well before the March spray season. For many producers, a 5-year license can be obtained from the State Plant Board once certification is completed.

Because of Environmental Protection Agency funding reductions, the Cooperative Extension Service must now charge for certification training required to obtain a pesticide-applicator license. This fee, which began in the fall of 2004, is \$ 10 per individual, payable upon completion of the class. The class fee will not affect the fee payable to the Arkansas State Plant Board for a pesticide license.

Individuals interested in attending the class are asked to RSVP as soon as possible, but prior to Dec. 1, by calling 271-1060 or, if preferred, by contacting me via e-mail at Rseay @ uaex. edu. Because of space limitations, it may become necessary to book an additional evening for the class, so your RSVP is important. Till next week.

••• Robert L. Seay is a county extension agent with the University of Arkansas ' Cooperative Extension Services. Call him at (479) 271-1060 or e-mail rseay @ uaex. edu.

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POULTRY LITTER GENERATES HEAT

By Joel Banner Baird jbaird@newsleader.com The News Leader (Staunton, VA)

Posted on October 22, 2006

URL: <http://www.newsleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061022/NEWS01/610220349/1002>

Process adds utility. DAYTON — There's more than just good chemistry between Oren Heatwole Jr. and the millions of chickens and turkeys that populate the Valley. There's real heat.

Oil lines compete with electrical conduit for wall space in Heatwole's new, high-ceiling workshop. In three months, a diesel-like oil will flow from a poultry litter-fired reactor into the heating furnace he's installed outside.

On a recent tour of the work-in-progress, Heatwole made it sound simple.

"We're just hoping to bring value back to the litter, rather than a liability," he said.

Poultry litter is well known to area farmers (and their neighbors) as a rich, concentrated fertilizer. But it's become too much of a good thing, said regional Extension Agent Eric Benfeldt on Wednesday.

"For decades we've thought soil was a soak; able to absorb an infinite amount of nutrients," he said. "That's not the case. It's ending up in streams and groundwater at concentrations that are unhealthy."

Virginia Tech researcher Jactone Ogejo passed around a jar of what appeared to be coarsely ground pepper. Previous experiments yielded a granular, slow-release fertilizer as a by-product of the brewed poultry-litter fuel, he explained.

"Its weight and volume are greatly reduced in this process," he said. "So it will correspondingly reduce your transportation costs."

Heatwole said the volatile gases released in pyrolysis will keep the reactor at 500 degrees; the extracted oil could supplement poultry house heating systems. His prototype, paid for with a Waste Solutions Forum grant, will be transportable and able to handle about five tons per day. He's hoping its efficiency will improve further with bolted-down versions with four times the capacity.

Ogejo, meanwhile, revealed plans for another excrement-enhancing project, this time targeting the waste lagoons in Valley dairy farms. The introduction of magnesium into a cow-fired reactor creates dry and versatile struvite crystals — which can be used as a binding material in cements, in the making of fire-resistant panels — as well as an easy-to-transport, slow-release fertilizer.

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