

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-COLLEGE PARK — UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE  
600 S. Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760

September 26, 1979

Mr. Weldon Denny  
Deputy Administrator for State & County Operations  
ASC Service, Box 2415  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Mr. Denny:

As an Agricultural Science Extension Agent who has spent 23 years working with farmers in nearby Montgomery Co., Maryland, I have enjoyed working cooperatively with the local ASC program and its personnel and have seen many worthwhile benefits accrued. I have very deep convictions about the importance and necessity of resource conservation and environmental pollution abatement and, for over a decade, encouraging producers to practice no-tillage farming has been a major thrust of my Extension educational efforts. ACP cost sharing has helped with the progress that has been made in rural Montgomery Co. with this colossal task of conservation and pollution abatement. However, a situation has arisen recently that has caused me to have grave reservations about the delivery system of this program.

It concerns a dairy farmer here in Montgomery Co., a Mr. John Doody and his efforts to obtain ACP cost-sharing on his animal waste control facility. Along with his two sons, Mr. Doody and his wife operate a rather large dairy farm, over 300 head. With the dairy perched on top of a hill, they had a serious manure handling and pollution problem. When the Doodys decided early in 1978 to do something about this problem and went to the local ASCS office to request assistance, many of us in the various agencies who have responsibilities with program assistance were pleased to help. Technical personnel from SCS and Extension were contacted and the task force proceeded to design a facility for the Doody's farm. The result was a rather elaborate and costly design, approximately \$25,000 which the Doodys accepted and subsequently installed exactly according to the design and specifications.

The installation is a model facility which we had hoped to use to motivate other commercial producers to control animal waste and pollution. But, due to "in house" ACP yearly funding restrictions, changes in regulations and other technicalities, not of the Doody's making, the Doodys were disallowed ACP cost sharing assistance. The situation has thrown the rural community into turmoil and stymied further efforts to clean up the rural environment. Mr. Denny, I urgently appeal to you to look into this problem as soon as possible. The longer this situation exists, the more damage will be done in thwarting the efforts of many who want to progress in this extremely important business of cleaning up the environment and conserving our most valuable resources.

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If I can be of further help, I stand ready to assist in any way to expedite a just conclusion to this unfortunate situation. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert D. Raver".


Robert D. Raver  
Extension Agent, Agricultural Science  
Montgomery County

Phone: 301-948-9070

RDR:cbg

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