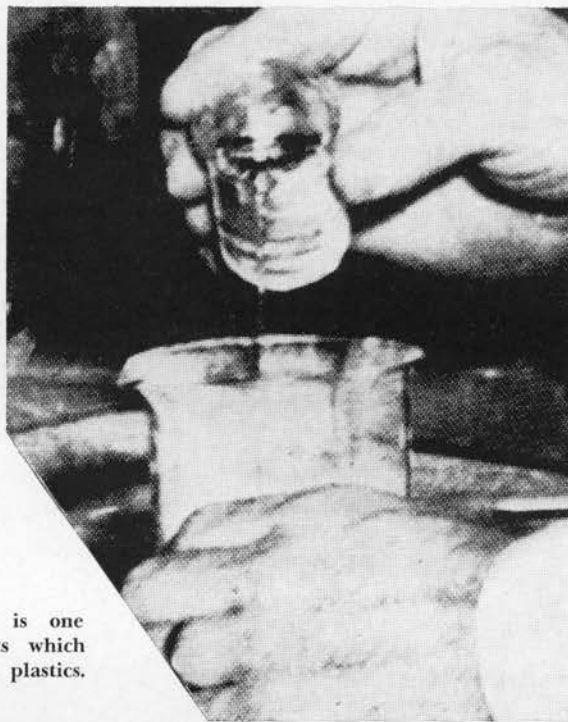


Some new-fangled uses for

Ag Waste Products



Distilled animal fat is one of the waste products which is being added to plastics.

By Jim Stayner

PEANUTS ARE used in a variety of foods and can usually be identified by taste. But, not too many people recognize cloth made out of peanut hulls.

Former agricultural waste products such as casein, peanut hulls, and the short fibers left on cottonseeds after ginning are now being utilized for protein to make artificial fibers.

Even dairy and beef cattle are being fed products made from the former waste products of the citrus industry.

One of the most recent plans advanced for utilizing surplus grain is to convert it to ethyl alcohol for use in internal combustion engines.

Why do we need to discover these uses for waste products from agricultural industries? Many of our natural resources and raw material supplies have been reduced alarmingly. Some natural resources, like wood, require many years for replenishment. Centuries are needed to produce coal and petroleum, but agricultural residues are renewed annually in the production of food, feed and fiber.

Other agricultural residues are the materials that remain after the desired grain, seed, fruit or primary fiber has been removed from a plant. Here again, fibers for cloth can be made from such wastes as straw, stalks and even nutshells.

More than 400,000 tons of straw are used in the Middle West each

year to produce strawboard for corrugating. This strawboard is used for protecting glassware and other delicate articles during shipment. Ground corn meal is used in many soaps, particularly hand soaps to increased their dirt-removing efficiency.

About 400,000 tons of seed-flax is processed annually to provide the paper for practically all of the cigarette paper used in this country. Paper with excellent surface and printing characteristics is now being made from wheat and rye straw.

Inedible wastes of the poultry industry are being converted into foods which contain food values similar to those of large meat animals. In the past these wastes have had a limited use as fertilizer, and in the pharmaceutical and industrial fields.

Science has now opened the way for these poultry wastes to be used for such things as adhesives, foams for fighting oil fires, plastics and agents for binding rubber cement to cellulose. The offal of the poultry packing houses can also be used for hog feed, food for cats and dogs, and for fur animals. Proper blending of poultry viscera can be made for use as a substitute for horse meat in feeds.

Corncocks have caused disposal problems to midwest farmers recently. Oil and bottle gas have replaced the "cob-burner" stoves and tank heaters on most farms. Ground corncocks can now be used for cleaning furs because of their high oil absorbing capacity.



The treated lint fibers mesh and help to reinforce the other ingredients in paper.

