

Philadelphia Plans to Revamp **Billion Dollar Food Business**

worth of food moves in and out total measurable marketing costs of Philadelphia each year If all the food moved through Philadelphia were moved by train, the cars would stretch for more than four miles each day, 365 days a year.

Most of this food now is botwholesale food distribution facili- as porterage; cartage to whole ties in Dock and Callowhill St., ale stores; spoilage, deteriora near the Delaware River.

old, the buildings being several business in scattered and incon stories high, without rear en venient locations. trances and direct rail connec-

MANY LACK adequate refrig eration. Sanitation practices are scarce There are no established business hours. Traffic conges tion is acute

However a change is coming As the result of a United States Department of Agriculture study started in 1954 at the request of the Greater Philadelphia Move delphia has done ment, plans have been tormed and in some instances are already land was found that could be pur farmer here in Lancaster County, and are sold on the basis of

in the city THIS NEW CENTER IS IM portant to the farmers of Lancaster County for several reas-

Perhaps the first is more moral he has labored for a full season, sit and rot on a crowded dock Not only does it not make good

sense from a moral standpoint it also is a great waste from the standpoint of conservation of the natural resources of the land Secondly, and closer to the pocket-pook, spoilage and increased --- often unnecessary costs to the wholesaler mean a mark-up in price to the consumer This is one of the things that make consumers assume that the farmer is getting rich at his ex

More than a billion dollars, culture survey snowed that the in 1953 that would be greatly af fected by improvements in mar keting facilities are estimated at more than 9 million dollars for all types of commodities handled. These costs include such things tion, breakage and shrinkage; The facilities in this area are rentals, and the cost of doing

> The commodities studied were fresh fruits and vegetables, poultry and eggs, seafoods, meats and meat products, butter and cheese dry groceries ,and frozen goods AS MIGHT BE expected, the greatest losses were in the most perishable commodities — fruits and vegetables, meats, poultry and eggs and seafood

Here is what the city of Phila-

A 388 acre tract of unimproved being carried out toward the con- chased at a reasonable cost sout 1 struction of a new food center of the city The tract is located

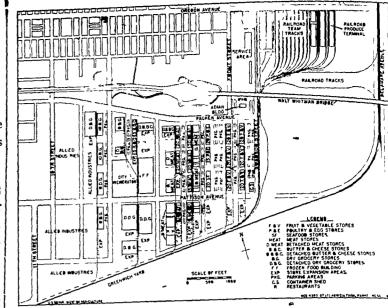
> north of the Greenwich classifica | ties in Philadelphia tion yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad

The land cost the Food Distri bution Center, a corporation \$6,186,000, including fill, purchases of several plots and reclamation .

IT IS ESTIMATED that new buildings, rail lines and paving will cost another \$385 million These costs would be returned to the city over a period of years by taxes and rental fees

Savings to the consumer would be great Using the 1953 price and cost figures, and taking rent als into account, it is estimated that the \$31 million dollars a year could be saved over what THE DEPARTMENT of Agri is now lost due to the poor loca-

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THIS DRAWING shows the location of the New Food Marketing Center in Philadelphia Notice that it is easily accessable to both highway and rail transportation. Provisions are also made for allied industries, restaurants and the like.

tion and other drawbacks of the operation of the price making Dock and Callowhill Street mar | forces, not only on the volume

kets are wondering, what, if any bene- quantities that move directly fits will this have to me, the from the farm to other points

near the Walt Whitman bridge, several ways, the USDA says phia south of Packer Avenue and from satisfactory market facili

that likes to see the produce that created for the development of ket, consumers might be expectthe food center in Philadelphia, ed to purchase larger quantities mand for farm products

from the improvement in the age and similar services.

which moves through Philadel Probably, after all this, you phia but also on the considerable

FARMERS WOULD benefit in prices established in Philadel-Farmers who bring their plo ducts to Philadelphia in their

First with the products arriv- own trucks would benefit through ing in retail stores in more sat- being able to get to the whole isfactory condition and with less sale stores promptly, unload, and handling expense within the mar ; return to their farms in less time than is now required.

The return of some farmers for and somewhat increase the de products sold in the market would improve as a result of Farmers also would benefit' eliminating deductions for cart



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