

● **County Planning**

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 sion in housing would be in the greater Lancaster area, and in the northern and eastern parts of the county.  
 The big question that was in the minds of the district directors — future land use in the county effecting agriculture — has no answer at this time apparently. It is toward the goal of formulating such a plan that will serve the best interests of farming and the county that the planners and the conservationists hope to cooperate.

Harned pointed out that the factors that make Lancaster County desirable for agriculture — soil, climate, markets, level land — also make it desirable for building. The county and its general geographic location have been factors that encouraged industry to locate in the area. In recent times, Lancaster County has been known as one of the most prosperous counties in the nation. This has been due to the two partners, agriculture and industry. County Commissioner Chairman Ben Weaver, who was also present at the conference, commented on the "balance" of industry and residential influence in the townships and in the county. He said this balance has enabled Lancaster County to enjoy one of the lowest tax rates of any county in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Industrial growth, Harned observed, in general tends to follow the major transportation routes. This has resulted in the many satellite areas which have developed around our boroughs.

Unfortunately, much of the industrial and residential

growth in the county has been in the areas of our best agricultural soils. The Lancaster Plain, so-called, which is a belt of limestone soil running east and west through the center of the county, has been an attractive site for home-builders. This has resulted in land values in these sections which are not realistic for farming.

Statistics show that farm population has declined in the county, but we still have a larger rural-farm population than any other county in the state, or in the nation as a whole. The planning director also pointed out three general trends for county agriculture: land in farms has decreased; total value of production has increased; production per acre has increased. In detailing these figures, he showed that farms below 180 acres had decreased in recent times, and those above 180 acres had increased in percentage of total farms in the county. While land in farms declined by 16,000 acres between 1954 and 1959, the average acres per farm increased from 62.7 to 68.4.

Next month the SWCD directors will hold another joint meeting with the county planning commission and will attempt to outline reasonable goals and objectives for planning agricultural land use in the county. Planning presently is the only function of the Lancaster County Planning Commission, Harned emphasized. "Planning and zoning are not the same thing. Planning projects needs and land use for the future; zoning is the most feasible way to implement that plan," he stated.

**LAMPETER-STRASBURG COOKS END SEASON**

by Carol Groff, reporter.  
 The last meeting of the Lampeter-Strasburg 4-H Cooking Club was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Hess on Tuesday, July 20. At that time, the members made Carrots and Onions, and Baked Macaroni with Cheese.

A demonstration was given by Carol Hess and Doris Shenk on Tablesetting and Centerpiece.

On August 6 they will have their Roundup at Penn Manor. They will make Yeast Rolls.

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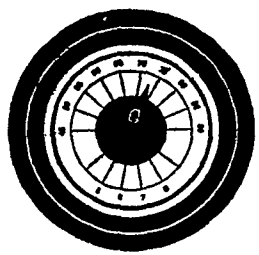
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