

# Soil and Water Conservation District Report Issue

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# Lancaster Farming

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**SPEAKERS AT TUESDAY NIGHT'S POULTRY ASSOCIATION MEETING** were, from left, Elwood C. Williard, Spread Eagle Farms, Inc., Lancaster Farm Credit Assn.; J Harold Esbenschade, master of ceremonies; George Lewis, Conestoga National Bank; and Floyd Hicks, PSU extension poultryman.

L. F. Photo

## Tax Break May Speed Conservation Goals, District Chairman States

Farmers who apply sound conservation practices on their land save the taxpayers a substantial amount of money, and should warrant some kind of tax break, a leading conservationist maintains.

Speaking to a farm community group at the Lincoln Independent School Wednesday night, Lancaster County Soil & Water Conservation District chairman Amos H Funk said he would offer such a proposal to agriculture secretary Leland Bull in April.

"When the State Soil & Water Conservation Commission meets in April, I intend to propose that the secretary of agriculture authorize a feasibility study of this question," Funk reported.

He gave several sets of statistics illustrating the possible savings to the public from increased conservation efforts by

landowners. Quoting Dr. Russell Larson dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State, Funk said that "40 percent of the total highway maintenance cost in Pennsylvania is due to soil erosion and resulting sedimentation."

Funk went on to point out that only 12 percent of all the potential land in the state is signed up under the conservation program.

"Of those that are signed up," he said, "only about one-third are actually applying the practices they should. That's a pretty poor showing."

Taking a look at population figures, present and projected, the conservationist noted that the present population in this country is expected to increase at the rate of about 9000 a day, reaching 340 million by the year 2000.

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## Market Eggs As A Food, Not As A Commodity, Poultry Group Told

Speaking to more than 100 area poultrymen Tuesday night, one of Pennsylvania's largest egg producing marketing organizations, advised thinking of eggs as a food, not as a commodity.

Elwood C. Williard, president of Spread Eagle Farms, Inc., Kingstonsburg, warned of a world food crisis in the next 10 to 15 years. When it occurs, he said, Pennsylvania poultrymen will be in a prime position to take full advantage of it. Not only are eggs and poultry the one and two best commodities of cereal grains to

animal protein, but Pennsylvania poultrymen are sitting on top of the greatest and most affluent market area in the country. Williard said.

### EGG PRODUCTS

Williard, whose firm owns 16 farms and plans to have 250,000 cage layers by the end of the year, also operates one of the most modern egg-busking plants in the east.

He predicted that once poultrymen started marketing eggs as a food, by getting rid of the shells, there were at least 200 products they could sell.

"Man should be ingenious enough to produce a better package than the hen. The natural package is too fragile, it's hard to transport, and it's too messy for the modern housewife," Williard said.

"Marketing eggs in their traditional form has hurt the egg industry. It's just not a handy food," he added.

The producer committed on those who would promote eggs by trying to re-establish the

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## Garden Spot YFA Plans Special Meeting Mar. 7

The Garden Spot Young Farmers Association will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m., according to an announcement this week by instructor Robert Elmer.

The program which will be held in the agriculture room at the Garden Spot High School, will feature Orval A. Bass, work unit conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Bass will discuss such topics as growing continuous

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## Local Panel Will Be Feature Of County Dairy Day Program Mar. 7

One of the highlights of the Lancaster County Extension Service Dairy Day program to be held at the Guernsey Sale Pavilion on March 7 will be a panel of local dairymen. The group will discuss some of the current problems in the dairy industry with emphasis on local effects. The panel discussion will be moderated by dairy extension specialist Joe Taylor; panelists will be Wil-

liam Arrowsmith, J. Mowery Frey, Jr., Mrs. Herbert Royer, and Rohrer Witmer.

Harry Mumma, president of the Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Association, will serve as master of ceremonies for the dairy program which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 in the afternoon.

Speakers for the day will be Penn State University specialists, including Joe McCurdy, agricultural engineer; Joe Taylor, Dr. C. William Pierce, agricultural economist; and Dr. Samuel Guss, extension veterinarian.

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## Farm Calendar

March 6—7:30 p.m., Lancaster County Soil & Water Conservation District directors meeting at county courthouse.

—7:30 p.m., Extension Service Estate Planning Clinic at John Neff School.

March 7—9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lancaster County Dairy Day, at Guernsey Sale Pavilion.

—7:30 p.m., Ephrata Farm Electricity Class, "Electrical Wiring Skills for Farm Use", at Ephrata High School.

—7:30 p.m., Garden Spot YFA meeting at G.S.H.S.; speaker, Orval A. Bass, SCS.

—7:30 p.m., Southern 4-H Holstein Club, at agr. room, Solanco High School.

—7:30 p.m., Lancaster and Eastern Lancaster County 4-H Horse Club, at Meadowbrook Stables, 2517 New Holland Pike.

—7:45 p.m., Central 4-H Tractor Club at Laminus B. Os. Farm Machinery Co., Mannheim Pike, Lancaster.

March 8—10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Oldster Farm Fair, at Faam-

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## 1966 Soil & Water Conservation District Directors Report

Directors of the Lancaster County Soil & Water Conservation District during 1966 were Amos H. Funk, chairman, Henry H. Hackman, vice chairman, Aaron Z. Stauffer, J. Everett Kleider, and Arthur R. Campbell Jr., county commissioner. According to secretary-treasurer Garland E. Gingerich, the District reported the following activities for 1966:

1. 80 new cooperators applying practices on 8793 acres.
2. Held annual meeting — 245 attended — at Blue Ball Fire Hall. Address by Charles Hess, State Director, Soil and Water Commission.
3. Lester Weaver named outstanding cooperator.
4. Recognized Soil Stewardship week with TV and radio, and newspaper programs. Also cooperated with several churches by providing various materials.
5. Director Amos Funk served as a member of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
6. Seventh annual plowing

contest was held at the Isaac Geib farm. Marvin Zimmerman was the winner.

7. Seventh annual field day

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## SCS Reports 592 Farms Serviced

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's technical arm of action for soil and water conservation, reported to the District that it serviced 592 Lancaster County farms in 1966.

The following accomplishments were reported by SCS:

- District cooperators, 80 cooperators with 8793 acres, basic conservation plans 84 with 7936 acres, basic conservation plans revised, 50 with 7546 acres, resource plans, 2 with 617,920 acres, farms serviced, 592, co-operators applying conservation practices, 223; consultative services, 39, ACP referrals, 125.

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## FHA Reports On Loan Activities For Conservation

"The Farmers Home Administration is pleased to report on progress and accomplishments during 1966, and to compliment the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District on its accomplishments and contributions to agriculture in the county," said Richard W. Hoover, FHA county supervisor.

During 1966 the Farmers

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## Reorganization Time For Local 4-H Clubs

March is reorganization time for many local 4-H community clubs, associate county agent Victor Plastow said this week as he noted meeting times for these county clubs.

March 7, the Southern Holstein Dairy Club will meet in the Solanco High School agriculture room, March 8, the Guernsey Dairy Club will meet at the home of Raymond Witmer, Willow Street R1, March 9, the Latitz-Mannheim Club will meet at the John Neff School, Neffsville. All the meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m., Plastow noted.

At the initial meeting of these clubs, officers will be elected and projects selected for the year, Plastow added.

"Anyone can be a 4-H club member if he turns ten years of age within the current year and has not passed his 19th birthday before January 1, 1967," Plastow stated.