

County Conservation District Seeks, Gets Tighter Controls

The Lancaster County Planning Commission took steps Tuesday to insure tighter controls on water and soil management in municipalities and large subdivisions.

The Commission took those steps when it adopted a memorandum initiated by the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The memorandum is a work-

ing agreement for an exchange of information and recommendations which will be passed on to subdividers and municipalities if construction threatens the total run-off or changes the course of a water-way.

In presenting the memorandum for approval, planning staff explained that heretofore, in the review of subdivision plans, "staff has not looked deeply into soil and water management" except in limited areas already covered by zoning regulations.

Under the agreement, the Planning Commission will

Recommend inclusion of soil and water management measures to those subdivision plans deemed necessary by the commission.

Request from the District, prior to approval, technical assistance on those plans which require additional soil and water management planning;

Furnish the District with a copy of that portion of each plan on which District assistance is requested;

Recommend to municipal planning commissions and subdividers that use be made of District technical assistance in order to incorporate soil and water management measures in subdivision activity

The Conservation District will: Furnish technical assistance as requested.

Provide the planners with standards and specifications for any recommended soil and water management measures;

Furnish the planners, develop-

Unlicensed dogs in Lancaster County are estimated at 15,000.

But J. Marvin Hostetter, dog law enforcement officer for the county, said the figure doesn't upset him because the ratio of unlicensed dogs to the 42,707 licensed pooches is one of the best in the state.

His prosecution record — he preferred charges against 302 dog owners last year — is one of the best in the state, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, which enforces the state's dog law act.

Some of those prosecuted paid fines as big as \$100 for not having their dogs licensed. Hostetter said he can't understand why anyone would risk a fine when a tag costs only \$1.20 to \$2.20.

"A dog tag means the owner cares for his pet," Hostetter said. "It's the only way an owner has of getting his dog back if it is lost or stolen."

Dog law enforcement is like scratching a hole in the sand

er or any municipal body, technical assistance in design, layout and construction of recommended measures

The commission and the District agree mutually to.

Conduct orientation seminars necessary to implementation of the areas of cooperation,

Serve as information sources to all municipal planning commissions;

Review the memorandum annually.

according to Hostetter. "You seem to make so little headway for all the work involved."

Complaints such as dogs running at large, dog bites and dogs killing livestock and poultry require much investigative work, the dog law officer said.

"When you're running down complaints, it means you can't be checking people to see if they've bought dog tags," he added.

During a recent sheep killing investigation in the Churchtown area, Hostetter encountered a man who feigned ignorance of the Pennsylvania dog law.

"You mean to tell me I have to pay to get a license for my dog?" the man asked indignantly. "I've had a dog for 12 years and never had a license."

He said the recalcitrant dog owner paid a \$100 fine and was in the county treasurer's office the next day for a dog tag.

Hostetter, who has already begun checking on dog owners who haven't purchased 1970 tags, thinks it's high time the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania paid for his home phone.

"My wife takes complaints all day. For the free answering service, I think the state ought to pay my phone bill the same as they pay a game protector's."

Hostetter was an investigating officer for the U.S. Department of Justice before becoming Lancaster County's dog officer, a position he has held for three years.

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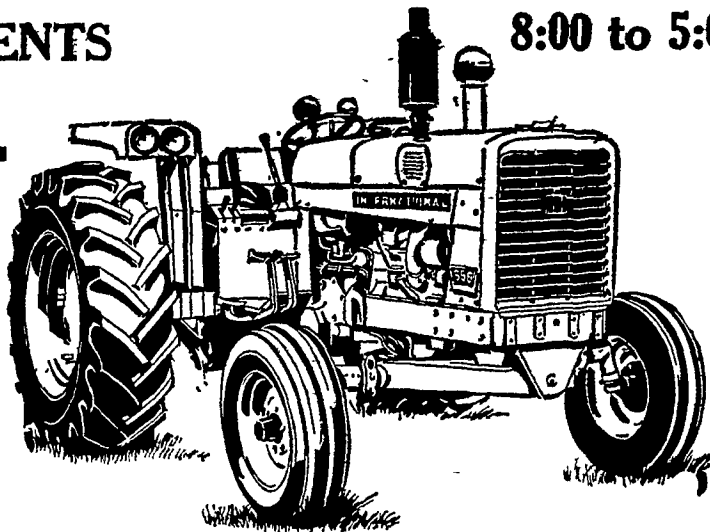
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