20-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 17, 1971



ed out: (R-Lebanon/Lancaster

planning.

pared, to implement recommen- House and Senate to permit the him with guidelines. dations of Governor Shafer's General Assembly to establish One criterion suggested would Committee for the Preservation of Agricultural Land in a report land used for agricultural pur-value of land by soil type. Ansubmitted December 1969. The pose. report warned

vania's farmland has gone out of proposal could not be submitted The Pennsylvania Farmer comfood production since the turn of to the voters before the 1973 ments editorially "One of the the century This includes 420,- Primary Election. A quicker appealing features of the annual 000 acres of some of Pennsyl- method would be through iental income approach is that it vania's best agricultural land amendment of the Assessment 19 widely used in assessing such which has been converted to non- Law. agricultural uses in the past 10 Chester Heim, legislative di- mercial and industrial property." years, on average of 115 acres rector of the Pennsylvania Farmeach day This pattern is ac- ers' Association, told an associa- Jersey, Delaware and Connecticelerating and is likely to con- tion meeting held in Harrisburg cut have moved in the direction tinue '

Governor's Committee nient is now being prepared. The suggested several steps to slow Other groups are also at work down this potentially dangerous on this knotty and urgent probprocess One calls for legislation lem Norman F Reber, editor

Lebanon) and Robert C. Rowe ket value The Committee point- a tax study committee is at work intense

search for ways to help preserve land in agricultural use becomes Pennsylvania's farm land, developed, taxes on this agriculthrough relief from real estate tural land are so high that the David S. Barr, the county's ties alnd landowners for the and yet there is no increased

duced and others are being pre- has been introduced in the and other specialists to furnish that an area be designated as urstandards for the taxation of be the per-acre annual rental

"Nearly one-half of Pennsyl- process is a slow one, and this tural purposes.

March 29 that such an amend-

to base farm and forest taxation of Pennsylvania Farmer, report-

in Centre County on the specifics "Once an area surrounding of how to assess land used for nd in agricultural use becomes

A constitutional amendment State's college of agriculture, would remove the requirement property . . ."

other 1s the value of agricultural The constitutional amendment buildings when used for agricul-

> things as shopping centers, com-Our neighboring states of New of fair assessment of land in actual farm use. In New Jersey no farmland is being assessed higher than \$700 an acre, compared to \$5,000 to \$25,000 an acre before the State passed a constitutional amendment dealing with this question.

A unique feature of New Jersey's tax law, passed in 1964, 13 its provision for a farmland advisoly committee, consisting of the director of the state division of taxation, the state secretary of agriculture and the dean of the college of agriculture

A unique feature of New Jersey's tax law, passed in 1964, is its proviison for a farmland advisory committee, consisting of the director of the state division of taxation, the state secretary of agriculture and the dean of the college of agriculture

So there is ample precedent for the steps which Pennsylvania is now beginning to take

Another bill has been introduced of interest to faimers located in areas adjacent to large centers of population where

By Reps. H. Jack Seltzer (R- on land use rather than on mare ed in the February 27 issue that competition for available land is

adopted after a public hearing center and all the assessments as a pre-condition to agreement in a mile radius start rising . . .

taxes, and through regional owner is forced to sell the land chief assessor, has called upon preservation of farmland, forest, yield from his land . . . forcing for more intensive development." Russell Larson, dean of Penn water and open space The bill many farmers to sell out their

Pennsylvania farmers are en- partisan effort will be made to couraged that Governor Shappsolve it

has publicly supported their plea for real estate tax relief.

During an interview with a staff member of Pennsylvania Farmer last October 10 Shapp said "Farm real estate taxes should be based on the yield of farmland and not upon the as-Today somebody sessment buys 100 or 200 acres in a farm The bill would require a plan area, puts up a big shopping between counties or municipali- The taxes go up for the farmer

Governor Shapp's approach to ban by the Federal Government. this problem suggests that a bi-

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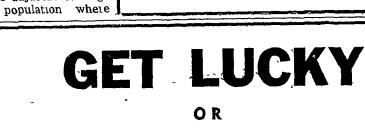
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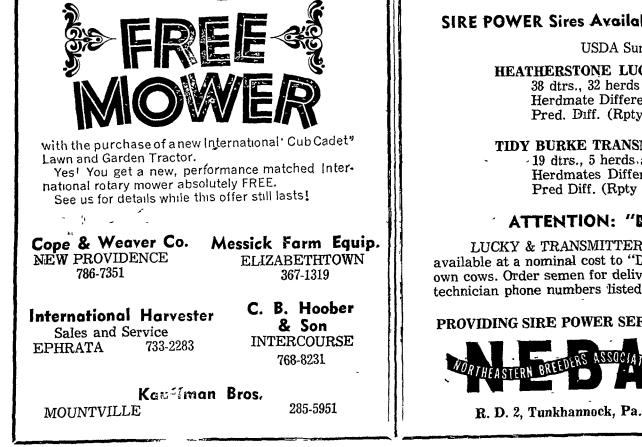
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