

# Lancaster Farming

Vol. 17 No. 19

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 1, 1972

\$2.00 Per Year

Lester Stehman

## Steward Of The Soil

Webster defines the word conservation as the planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect. Lester Stehman, Manheim RD2, who was recently named Outstanding Cooperator at the annual banquet of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District says that one more word should be added to this definition . . . stewardship. "God put us here to be stewards of the earth. I feel that by following good conservation practices I am simply being a better steward of the land."

Lester Stehman's love for his land is evident as one takes a leisurely stroll over his 76 acre farm located between Mount Joy and Manheim. "My father toiled this land before me for 20 years

and I have been farming here for the past 29 years. I simply believe that I have an obligation to pass it on in as good or better condition than when I began farming it" he went on.

To that end five years ago Lester Stehman began to put into practice the theories of conservation that he had learned. As a result he has increased his contour farming to 60 acres, has constructed 12,461 feet of terraces, built 10,025 feet of file drain, added 2.2 acres of sod waterways, and has one grade stabilization structure.

Terraces are simply gradually sloping, rather wide areas of land built to insure that water runoff flows at a slow rate toward the sod waterways.

Once the water reaches the sod

waterways it continues to flow along until it reaches wherever the farmer wants it to go. The end of the line at the Stehman farm is a small creek. While the water is following the sod waterways it again is gradually seeping into the ground. As a result the Stehman farm shows almost no soil erosion and very little washed out areas.

(More pictures on Pages 34 and 35.)

Why don't more farmers employ conservation practices? "Well, I guess cost is one factor," says Stehman "But you can't look at conservation as providing you with immediate dollars in the pocket. It will eventually mean more dollars, however, for as the land is cared for more diligently, so shall it eventually produce more, enabling a farmer to earn more. But if farmers look at conservation with the idea of making a fast buck, no, that just won't happen."

The Bible says, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God," (1 Peter 4:10) Conservation of our farmland is simply putting the Bible into practice. It's probably the greatest legacy we can leave to our children.

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The water on the Stehman farm runs from the terraces onto this sod waterway. There are 2.2 acres of sod waterways on the Stehman farm.

### Farm Calendar

Sunday, April 2  
Easter Day

Monday, April 3

10 p.m. — Public meeting, Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn.

8 p.m. — Lancaster County Poultry Association board of directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Octorora Young Farmer meeting, Farm Safety, vo-ag room, Octorora High School.

Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Association farm tour.

Tuesday, April 4

7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District educational meeting, Mastersonville Fire Hall.

7:30 p.m. — Penn Manor Young Farmer meeting, Fire Protection, Millersville Fire Hall.

Lancaster County Farmers Association board meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Poultry Short Course, Penn State University, April 4 - 5.

Wednesday, April 5

7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Thursday, April 6

7 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmer annual tour, Philadelphia area.

Friday, April 7

6:45 p.m. — Cloister FFA Parent-Son FFA banquet, Ephrata Area High School cafeteria.

7 p.m. — Penn Manor FFA Father-Son banquet, Millersville Fire Hall.

7 p.m. — Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, Holiday Inn, Rt. 222, Exit 21, Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Northeastern Poultry Producers Council meeting, Concord Hotel, Kiamesia Lake, N.Y., April 7 - 8.

Saturday, April 8

Fulton Grange 66 annual supper, Oakryn.

Pennsylvania Holstein Association calf sale, small arena, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

## The Peace Corps Wants You

The Peace Corps wants you, young man, or young woman, or middle aged couple, or, in fact, anyone who has a background in agriculture. This is the message that Frank Pixley, chief of the Peace Corps Agriculture skill desk, wants to spread throughout Lancaster and neighboring counties this week.

"We need people of all ages with agriculture skills. The time is long since past when the Peace Corps wnet onto the college campus and signed up hundreds of eager Liberal Arts majors. Now the emphasis is on skills and agriculture is one area in particular where we need people. We, of course, are looking for people with degrees. But we also need people with farm experience. That is why we are extremely interested in talking to anyone with at least two years experience in working on a farm," says Pixley.

And that is why Pixley and two young recruiters will be holding a meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 6 at the Farm and Credit Building in York and a similar one at 7:30 p.m. April 7 at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster.

"We want any interested person with a background in agriculture to come out. We'll determine whether or not he is qualified."

The Peace Corps has changed since its inception during the

### Public Meeting On Plans for Atomic Plant

The public is invited to a meeting at Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn, at 8 p.m. Monday, April 3, sponsored by the Grange.

Purpose of the meeting will be an informative discussion on the effects an atomic plant, located in the Solanco school area, would have on the community.

Kennedy days. There has come the realization that many of the peoples of the world need to be taught basic skills simply to stay alive. Thus, the Corps was changed from one where you selected the region of the world you wanted to go and visited that office to one where you now go to the office where your particular skill happens to be.

"I'm responsible for agriculture and skilled trades," relates Pixley. "That includes plumbers, electricians and the like. In addition to people with agriculture backgrounds, I'm also looking for skilled trades people. For instance, right now I'm looking for industrial arts people and tool and die makers. We need all sorts of skills in the Peace Corps."

If someone is accepted for the Corps he will go through a three month training cycle. The training period, however, is not one in which to teach people new skills but rather one to teach them the language in the country to which they are going. "We screen people pretty closely," says Pixley. "We'll know after the interview and screening process whether he is qualified for the Corps."

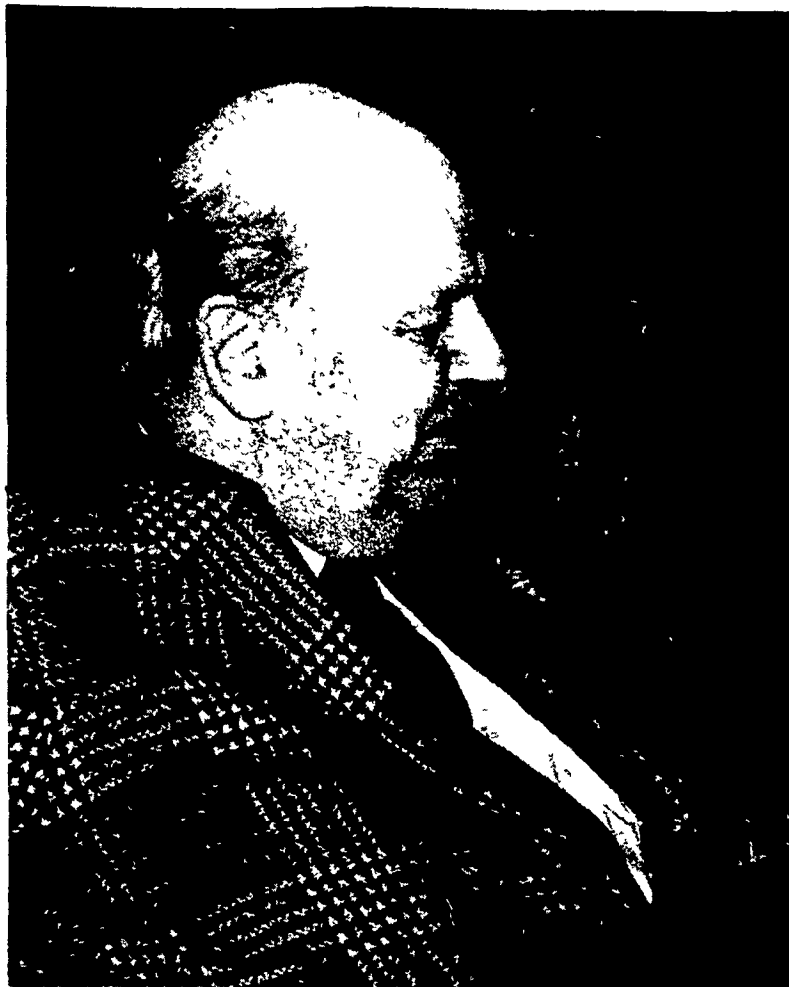
The basic concept of the Corps is a people-to-people concept. "Most of our relationships are on a small group basis," notes Pixley. "In fact, many times its on a one-to-one basis. It's not just people telling other people how something should be done, but, rather, its actually working right along with people until they can do the job for themselves. The idea is to teach people to do things for themselves. They, then, feel self-sufficient and maybe we have made a friend. It can be a very exciting thing."

The duration of a term in the Peace Corps is two years. Many of the young people who volunteer are interested because they want to be of service but do not want to serve in the military.

"We advise these draft conscious young people to talk to their draft boards and then talk to us."

The Peace Corps is not just young people oriented. "Oh no," exclaims Pixley. "I've got a lot of wonderful older couples and older men all over the world. Age is a measure of respect in many countries and they would rather have maturity. What we are looking for is the skill which the person has to offer. Age is relatively unimportant."

Pixley said that his desk has 775 requests to be filled in the (Continued on Page 35)



Frank Pixley, chief of the Agricultural skills desk of the Peace Corps, who is in the Lancaster-York County area recruiting people with agriculture backgrounds for service in the Corps.