

Lancaster Farming

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Farmers Face Fines, Jail . . .

'77 Is Conservation Deadline

Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Act says that by July 1, 1977, every farmer in the state must have a conservation plan available at his farm. He must furthermore show that plan to anyone who asks to see it.

If that plan calls for diversion terraces, waterways, silt ponds or other erosion control practices, and if those practices are not installed, then the farmer could be prosecuted. If the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) finds a farmer guilty, after July 1, 1977, of permitting accelerated erosion on his property, the farmer can be fined up to \$10,000. He may also be required to pay

finer for every day after conviction that he doesn't have conservation practices. And he may be sent to jail.

The implications for Chapter 102 are massive, not just for farmers, but for all land users. Builders of homes, highways, commercial buildings and sewers will all be required to adhere to stringent controls to eliminate accelerated erosion from any earthmoving project.

"Accelerated erosion" is defined in Chapter 102 thus: "The removal of the surface of the land through the combined action of man's activities and the natural processes at a rate greater than would occur because of the natural process

alone."

Chapter 102 was adopted to stem the flow of silt into the Commonwealth's streams. It is generally agreed that this is a laudable motive, but many observers are having serious doubts about the state's ability to implement and enforce the act, particularly with respect to farmers.

Several problems are seen with any attempts to implement the law. First is the problem of getting erosion control plans prepared for each farm in the state. Second is the problem of getting the necessary conservation practices installed. Third is the problem of paying for installation.

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Herd management for high production was the theme for a panel discussion held Tuesday during Lancaster County Dairy Day at the Farm and Home Center. Panel

members were, left to right: James Horton, Raymond Witmer, Rohrer Witmer and John Yost.

Standing Room Only Crowd Greet Dairy Day Speakers

Close to 400 dairymen turned out for the annual Lancaster County Dairy Day held Tuesday at the Farm and Home Center. The crowd was so much larger than expected that lunch tickets were sold out soon after the doors opened at 9:00 a.m.

Dairy Day is conducted every year by the county agricultural extension service in cooperation with milk distributors, milk marketing cooperatives and dairy breed associations in the area. Assistant county agent N. Alan Bair was chairman of the Dairy Day committee.

William F. Johnstone, an agricultural economics extension specialist from Penn State, was one of the guest speakers. He covered milk marketing bases and the outlook for milk sales in the months ahead.

He explained that marketing plans such as the Louisville and

the base excess plan are designed to even out the flow of milk production, to keep it more in line with milk consumption, which is fairly steady throughout the year.

Either plan, he said, can be effective in reducing violent swings in the milk supply-price situation.

Another speaker was Donald L. Ace, a dairy extensionist from Penn State. He talked about dairy herd management, focusing on individual attention to the cow, and designing the dairy operation around the personal likes and needs of the dairyman.

A panel discussion on herd management for high production, was very well received by the audience. Topics covered were feeding programs, housing and milking procedures. On the panel were John S. Yost, Kinzers; Raymond Witmer, Lancaster; J.

Rohrer Witmer, Lancaster, and James Horton, Masonic Homes Farm in Elizabethtown. Each panel member had the high production record for his breed in the county last year. Yost had the high county Holstein herd, Raymond Witmer had the high Guernsey herd, J. Rohrer Witmer, Raymond's brother, had the

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 10

Annual Duroc Show and Sale, Martin's Sale Barn, 2 miles East of Intercourse; Show, 11:30 a.m.; Sale, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, March 12

7:30 p.m. - Ayrshire-Jersey-Brown Swiss 4-H Organizational meeting, home of Milton Brubaker, 660 Brunnerville Rd., Lititz.

7:45 p.m. - Chester County Soils (Continued On Page 15)

Farm Tax Meet Set Wed. Night

A public educational meeting on the Land Use Tax Assessment Referendum has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 14. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

The referendum will be held on the May 15 primary election ballot throughout Pennsylvania. If the referendum vote is favorable, the state constitution will be amended to permit the legislature to make laws for the assessing and taxing of farm land based on its use value.

Audience participation will be a part of the meeting, and an exchange of ideas will be encouraged. Speakers from the Penn State College of Agriculture will be there to explain the technical aspects of the vote.

William M. Carroll, a public affairs specialist at the college, will introduce the subject. Leland H. Bull, former state secretary of agriculture and presently assistant to the dean at the

college, will talk about the historical background of the issue and the experiences of other states. Farmland assessment research will be explained by Dr. Donald J. Epp, of the department of agricultural economics. Peter B. Norton, a research development specialist, will discuss alternative considerations. The panel moderator will be Marion R. Deppen, assistant director for the Penn State extension service. Lancaster County Agricultural Agent Max Smith said one of the questions the meeting will try to answer will be whether or not this action might tend to promote better patterns of land development and population distribution. The effect on farm income will also be discussed quite extensively.

Smith pointed out that the extension service and the Farm and Home Foundation have not taken positions either for or against the referendum issue. The meeting is planned simply as a vehicle for information.



A reorganization meeting of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Association was held last Friday at the Willow Valley Restaurant. Newly elected officers for the group are, left to right: Melvin G. Rohrer, treasurer, Lititz R3; Ellis R. Denlinger, Gordonville, R1, vice-president; Mrs. Roy Book, Ronks R1, secretary, and J. Mark Bushong, Columbia R2, president.