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# Lancaster Farming

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A meeting on land use at the Gap Fire Hall on Tuesday evening drew about 50 people, including a dozen

farmers. The meeting was sponsored by Elizabethtown College.

## Land Use Meetings In Gap, Quarryville

"How are we going to preserve the farmland? I could sell my land right now, put the money in the bank at eight percent and make three times as much as I'm making as a farmer. Why shouldn't I sell out?" Frank Eshelman asked at a public meeting on land use Tuesday night at the Gap Fire Hall. Eshelman is a farmer in East Hempfield Township and his query underlined a basic problem in sensible land use planning which had been discussed earlier by Dr. Hays B. Gamble. Gamble is associate director for land and water research at Penn State, and was one of the speakers at the meeting, which was sponsored by Elizabethtown College.

Gamble said earlier that Americans will have to rethink their ideas about private ownership of land. "We think we have the right as individuals to do with our land whatever we want to do," he said. "But we must remember that if an individual wants to sell his land for development, he's not always acting in the best interests of society. We've got to find a balance between the interests of society and the rights of the individual in land use. If we leave all land use decisions to individuals who sell for the highest price, we'll ultimately fail to arrive at any kind of sensible system. The only alternative is to require some individuals to give up a certain amount of freedom so that everybody can benefit."

There were about 50 people at Tuesday night's meeting, and about a dozen farmers in the audience. There was another meeting Thursday night in the Quarryville Fire

Hall, about the same size as Tuesday night's meeting, and there'll be a third and final meeting Tuesday, April

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2, at the Lincoln Fire Hall in Ephrata beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Gamble was a member of a three-man panel at both meetings and will appear again in Ephrata. The other two panel spots were filled by professors from Elizabethtown College.

"It's going to be difficult to agree on guidelines for good land use," Gamble said Tuesday night. "There are so many different interests in land. Home owners, farmers, developers, foresters, industrialists must all have their viewpoints represented."

Dr. J. Kenneth Kreider  
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## Herr Ewe Lamb Sets Sale Mark

A champion ewe lamb from Lancaster County set a new record last week when it sold for \$825 at the 14th annual Ohio Dorset Sale in Washington Court House, Ohio. This show, felt by many to be the most prestigious Dorset show in the nation, every year draws entries from all over the U.S. and even Canada. The record-setting lamb, which sold for more than any other ewe lamb in the history of the breed, was owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr, Narvon RD1.

The Herrs took six lambs from their Nix Besser flock along to Ohio, and all six qualified for Friday, March 22, show and the next day's sale. Only 100 sheep are eligible and many that make the trip to Ohio never get into

the show ring. In all, there were 37 rams and 67 ewes sold.

The Nix Besser ewe went to Galyn Heidemann, Grant Park, Ill. She'll be shown for two years, after which she'll become a brood ewe. The ewe was a half-sister to the champion ram at the Pennsylvania Farm Show this year, and a half-sister also to the reserve champion ewe at the Farm Show.

All the Herr sheep sold in Ohio went to breeding flocks. Only one came back to Pennsylvania, a ewe which went to Centre County. A ram, which stood fourth in the show, went to Michigan. Another ewe went to Illinois, a ram went to Ohio and West Virginia claimed another ram.

### Harrisburg Conference Examines . . .

## Who Will Control U.S. Agriculture?

A two-day session on the future of agriculture challenged a group of several hundred Pennsylvania farm leaders to answer the question "Where is agriculture going and how will we get there?" The meeting was sponsored by Pennsylvania State University and was held in Harrisburg Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, speakers presented the alternatives for agricultural control - an independent farmer, open market system; a corporate system; cooperative system; a government administered system, or a combination system.

Harold D. Guither, from the University of Illinois, assessed the current situation and defined some of the issues in his lead-off presentation.

Controlling agriculture, he said, means owning or controlling the land and other resources used for food production, and being able to make the key decisions for buying, selling and producing. Those who would control agriculture, according to Guither, must be able to get and use the technical information needed to remain competitive, and they must be able to buy equipment, supplies and labor at a reasonable cost and sell their

production at a reasonable profit.

"Industrialization of our food and fiber system," Guither noted, "is shifting control of agriculture away from the farm. Concentration of control in food manufacturing and distribution is substantial, and a rapid decline in plant numbers has occurred."

In 1967, according to Guither's figures, the eight largest companies handling each commodity controlled 30 percent of the value of shipments of fluid milk, 38 percent of meat-packing products, 46 percent of the

flour and other grain mill products, 76 percent of soybean oil mill products and 96 percent of beet sugar.

The number of food manufacturing plants dropped from 42,000 in the early 1950's to fewer than 27,000 in 1972. And four out of five firms in the supermarket industry have their own central warehouses, or are affiliated with a retailer-owned coop or wholesale-sponsored chain.

Because of the enormous capital requirements for farming today, there is some indication that corporate

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## FARM TRENDS by Dick Wanner

### '74 Milk Output May Dip

Milk production this year could total around one percent below 1973, according to the USDA's latest dairy situation report.

Output will likely remain below year-earlier levels during the first half, although the rate of decline may slacken from the 3 percent drop in January. Feed prices will probably stay high into summer, but milk prices will be well above 1973, improving the dairy income picture. There was a good supply of dairy herd replacements on hand at the beginning of the year, which will likely help offset the impact of herd culling

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Mrs. Robert Herr is shown here with the champion ewe lamb which brought a record \$825 at last week's 14th annual Ohio Dorset Sale in

Washington Court House, Ohio. The show is recognized by many as the top Dorset show in the country.