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# Conservation Banquet is Held

"We've got to accept the fact that we are soon going to have land use planning legislation," Pennsylvania's State Conservationist Benny Martin told some 200 people attending the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District on Thursday night. "But to make it work, we've got to see that we get local citizen involvement in the planning. Citizen involvement is the only way we can be sure that land use laws will serve agriculture, open space and planned orderly development."

Martin also said that Americans must be careful not to over react to overwhelming environmental

challenges. "We won't be able to solve all our problems overnight," he noted. "We've got to think of the costs of solving environmental problems. We've got to guard against environmental plans that benefit only a few of our citizens. And we've got to make sure that the restrictions we place on ourselves are worth the environmental returns."

On the subject of soil conservation, Martin said that Pennsylvania has traditionally been a leader. He pointed out, though, that an all-out effort to produce food this coming year will put a strain on farmland, and that only with very careful

management can the state's farmers avoid tremendous soil losses from their fields. Some 250,000 more acres are expected to be planted in the state this year, and most of that acreage is sloping or otherwise less than ideal for agriculture.

Martin said it should be possible to meet the challenge of feeding the world while at the same time maintaining sound conservation programs "If we concentrate only on production, with no thought given to protecting the land," Martin said, we'll wreck the tremendous strides we've made in conservation in the last 30 years."

Also addressing the group were County Commissioners Paul Paes and Jean Mowery. Both praised the work of the Conservation District, and

commented on the need to preserve the unique character of Lancaster County.

Henry Hackman, executive assistant for the district, reported on his duties and activities for the year, and Nancy Burkhart, secretary-treasurer, read the annual report.

Commissioner Paes presented awards on behalf of the district to a number of people attending the banquet. John B. Groff, Mount Joy R1, was recognized as the district's outstanding cooperator of the year, and was presented with an aerial photograph of his farm by Paes. The photo was taken by Grant Heilman, Lititz, one of the country's premiere agricultural photographers.

Robert Brubaker, a district board member who resigned to move to Minnesota, received an award to recognize his contributions to the district while on the board. Robert K. Rohrer, Quarryville, was honored for his work as a conservation contractor, and Robert Herr, Narvon R2, winner of the Pennsylvania Outstanding Conservation Educator award for 1974, was recognized by the district for his work in conservation.

## Groff (Continued from Page 26)

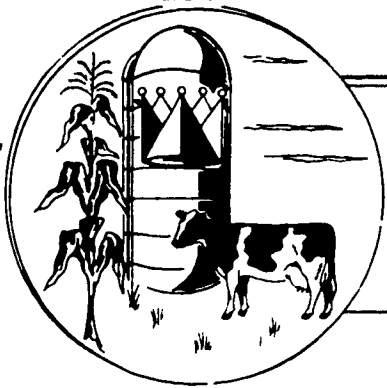
barn cleaner plus a spreader. Actually, I figure this way I saved money."

In the barn, manure falls into gutters at the ends of the stalls. These gutters are two-and-a-half feet deep at one end and slope towards the pit. Where they enter the pit, the bottoms of the gutters are five feet below the grates. Once a week, Groff flushes these gutters out with water from a pond below the barn. This job takes about ten minutes. "At first, I was concerned about flushing the gutters just once a week. So were the milk inspectors. But we don't have any problems with odors or anything else, so I'll just keep flushing them out once a week."

Besides the manure, all the waste water from the milk house goes into the pit. Once a month, Groff hooks his irrigation system to the manure pit and sprays the manure onto the fields. It generally takes about four hours of pumping to empty the pit. generally takes about four hours of pumping to empty the pit.

Groff uses a nozzle type sprayer. When he's pumping manure, he adds water from the pond, and figures the mixture that goes through the nozzle is about half manure and half water. He leaves the sprayer in one spot for about an hour, then moves it. In this way, he generally gets over the entire farm in a year's time. During the winter, Groff sprays all his cropland with the manure. In the growing season, though, he sprays only on two acres. These two acres are covered with rye stubble, the aftermath of the rye he allows to mature into seed every year.

The Groff farm is not only logically planned and smoothly run, it is also a very picturesque farm and a pleasant home for Groff, his wife Marian and their five daughters. Another Groff had yet to see the farm when Lancaster Farming visited there on Monday. He was the Groff's first son, born early Monday morning



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