



Ag.

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DER Official, Farmers Air Conservation Issues

For awhile on Wednesday night, it seemed that Afton Schadel would have to take the blame for all the failings, past, present and future of the American form of government. Schadel is part-owner of a Schuylkill County farm, works full-time for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and heads up DER's erosion and sedimentation control program.

Schadel was at the Hinkletown Alternative School in eastern Lancaster County to discuss the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law with an adult farmer group. "The state should get its own house in order before telling us farmers what to do," Schadel was told by B. C. Brubaker, a campground owner from the northwestern part of the county. Brubaker railed about erosion gullies around state highways, about the salt the PennDOT puts on highways in the winter. He told

Schadel the state had forced him to take down the billboard that advertised his business. He decried the loss of personal liberties, said state game lands were unconstitutional and said there was too much tampering with the U.S. Constitution.

Schadel rather good-naturedly parried Brubaker's charges, until Aaron Stauffer, chairman of the Lancaster County Conservation District stood up to tell the group that Schadel was a farmer as well as a government employee probably the most highly respected conservationist in the state. "We're very fortunate to have a man like Afton Schadel looking out for the farmer's interests," Stauffer said. "We could just as easily have gotten somebody in his spot that knows nothing about conservation and the farmer's problems. I think we should hear what he has to say about the Clean Streams Law."

The Clean Streams Law, Schadel explained, was written to protect the waters of the state from all kinds of

pollutants, including soil. In 1972, the Department of Environmental Resources, which operates under the Clean Streams Law, adopted rules and regulations to prevent erosion from farmlands. The regulations said that by July 1, 1977, all farmers would have to have a conservation plan to keep their soil out of streams, and they would also have to have installed the conservation practices their plans called

for. In the past few weeks, though, it's become apparent that the 1977 deadline will be pushed back. But Schadel pointed out that there will still be a need to control sedimentation.

"Farmland accounts for about 50 percent of the sedimentation in Pennsylvania streams," Schadel told the group. "We might lose less from an acre of

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100 Attend First Mini-Farm Meet

About 100 people showed up last Friday night for the first meeting of the Lancaster County Mini-Farmers Cooperative. They came to the conference room of the Lancaster Coca Cola Bottling Plant on the Manheim Pike to discuss the pleasures and the problems of mini-farming. The get together was the outgrowth of a series of meetings held largely in the living room of Kathy and Eckert Erb, owners of a 30-acre mini-farm at Millersville R1.

Eckert is serving as president of the newly formed group, Kathy is the secretary, Ed Moshier, Lutitz R3 is first vice-president,

Park Wiker, Holtwood, is second vice-president, and Eugene Degenhardt, Lancaster R6, is the treasurer. Erb began the evening by telling the audience that they were very likely attending the first meeting of its kind in the country. And adding, "We all need direction, all need help. Maybe together we can find out what we have to do to make our mini-farms successful."

Erb defined a mini-farmer for the group as anyone with two or more acres who was farming for a hobby, not necessarily for profit.

Rod Houser, a Lancaster R6 mini-farmer, was

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Mike and Shirley Wright, New Freedom, have one of the biggest crop farm operations in Pennsylvania. The 23-year-old Wright plants corn, small grains and vegetables on 2500 York County acres. The Wrights are shown here with some of the grain storage facilities that are an important part of the operation.

Young York Countian Farms 2500 Acres

At the ripe old age of 23, Michael Wright, New Freedom, is one of Pennsylvania's biggest farmers. Wright farms close to 2500 acres of York County farmland, and does so on a scale that's usually associated with the American Midwest.

Last year Wright farmed 1300 acres of corn, but this year plans to cut back to 900 to 1000, he told Lancaster Farming this week, because the price doesn't look quite as good as it did. He'll also plant 500 acres of green peas which will be followed with limas, 370 acres of barley, 300 acres of wheat, and

another 200 to 300 acres of soybeans.

Wright and his wife, Shirley, own the 96-acre home farm which has been in the family for several generations. But, like a great many of his Midwestern counterparts, he rents most of the land he farms. However, where Cornbelt land might rent for \$90 to \$100 an acre, Wright pays an average \$20 to \$30, and until recently had been paying \$15 for some land.

When he graduated from Spring Grove High School in 1969, Wright had already been farming 700 acres

during summer vacation. And he did it mostly on his own. Wright's father is a full-time York County contractor, although he did run the family farm for awhile after Mike's grandmother died.

Machinery, of course, is an important element in big farming. Wright has a combine, three tractors, a 4-wheel drive Steiger and a grain truck, all of which are

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Gary Brubaker

Will Head Baby Beef Club

by: Melissa Piper
Although this will be the first year, Gary Brubaker has served as president of the Lancaster County 4-H Baby Beef Club, the young man is by no means new to either the beef industry or the 4-H program.

Gary, who resides with his parents at 345 Running Pump Road, Lancaster, has been a 4-H member for the past eight years taking steer projects while helping on his parent's farm.

Gary has many qualities

which should aid him in his duties, with his knowledge of the beef industry being one of the foremost. The young man has shown his beef at the 4-H District shows as well as exhibiting the reserve champion at the Lampeter Fair and at the Farm Show.

Gary has become well known to many Lancaster 4-Hers as he is always giving his time at shows to offer advice and demonstrate the techniques of fitting and

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Lebanon 4-H Agent Appointed

4-Hers and farm youth in the Lebanon County area will soon be getting advice from Patricia Krall, the newly appointed Assistant Extension Agent - Youth in that county.

Miss Krall, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Krall, Lebanon R1, will be responsible for

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Patricia Krall



Gary Brubaker, 345 Running Pump Rd., Lancaster was recently elected president of the Red Rose Baby Beef Club. Brubaker helps to manage his father's farm near Rohrerstown.