

Flood control bill draws mail

Two views — presented by Senator and Grange Master

Editor: Lancaster Farming: We have received from Senator Franklin L. Kury a copy of a letter to the editor of Lancaster Farming. In it, he is critical of the action taken by the Pennsylvania State Grange regarding Senate Bill No. 1, the proposed Flood Disaster Prevention Act.

First, let me assure you that Lancaster Farming accurately reported the action taken by the Pennsylvania State Grange at its annual convention in Lancaster.

Second, let me assure you that the Pennsylvania State Grange stands solidly behind meaningful flood control legislation. We sincerely endorse Senator Kury's efforts and intentions in seeking useful and helpful flood control legislation. We know he has worked long and hard in this endeavor, and we are happy that the Grange was privileged to have a part in the initial planning for this legislation.

The real concern of the Pennsylvania State Grange is for the language of the bill that is so wordy that understanding and clarity is lost.

For example, in his letter Senator Kury states that: "What the bill proposed to regulate is new construction within the 100 year flood plain in each watershed."

"The key definition in the bill is 'flood area,' which is defined as the land area subject to flooding by waters of the Commonwealth on the average of once every 100 years as shown on flood plain maps prepared by the U.S.

Corps of Engineers or an interstate river basin commission. Farm ponds are specifically excluded."

Senator Kury's statement of purpose is clear and distinct. It leaves no doubt about what he intends the legislation to accomplish. But the compromise bill (Printer's No. 1345) requires 35 lines and 303 words to set forth the policy and purposes of the proposed act. The last sentence of the printed version includes a statement that the legislation is intended to:

"Encourage local administration and management of flood areas consistent with State and Federal supervision, with the enumerated legislative findings, policy and purposes of this act, and with the objective of managing flood area lands and subsurface and surface waters as interrelated and precious resources in accordance with sound and long-range land and water use planning and the people's constitutional right to the preservation of natural, economic, scenic, aesthetic, recreational and historic values of the environment, taking full and explicit account of nonmonetary and intangible values as well as monetary and tangible values." That, it seems, can mean just about anything to anybody.

In his letter Senator Kury contends that the Grange action was based on "faulty information because the bill does not regulate 'watersheds.'"

Section 203, on Page 13 of

the proposed legislation states:

"Department of Environmental Resources; Coordination and Supervision - The power to coordinate and supervise the management of flood areas in the Commonwealth shall be vested in the department, including the power and duty to:

"(1) Insure that flood area management and regulations in adjoining municipalities are compatible throughout the watershed and consistent with the policies of this act." On page 8, Line 2, is the following definition: "Watershed" means the entire region or area drained by a river or other body of water, whether natural or artificial."

I repeat, there is no disagreement between the Grange and the intent of this legislation as stated in Senator Kury's letter. It is our contention that what is needed is sound editing of the proposed bill to bring the language into line, clearly and distinctly, with the purpose stated by Senator Kury.

Luther J. Snyder
Pa. Grange Master

xxx

Without work, all life goes rotten. But when work is soulless, life stifles and dies.

Albert Camus

xxx

The only way to be just is to judge our own actions by the best part of you, and to judge the actions of others by the worst part of you.

Sidney J. Harris

Editor: Lancaster Farming, I was surprised and disappointed to read the resolution of the Pennsylvania Grange on Senate Bill 1, the Flood Disaster Prevention Act as reported on page one of your edition November 1, 1975

The surprise came because the first person I discussed the bill with before introducing it back in 1973 was A. Wayne Readinger, then Master of the Grange. I introduced the bill only after we agreed the bill would be limited to flood zones and would not allow DER to regulate all land in the Commonwealth.

I was disappointed because the Grange, which is usually quite accurate on legislative matters, acted on bad information if your reporting is correct. According to your report, the Grange resolution "contended that the definition of watershed is too broad and could allow the DER to regulate all land in the Commonwealth."

This is faulty information because the bill does not regulate "watersheds." What the bill proposed to regulate is new construction within the 100 year flood plain in each watershed.

The key definition in the bill is "flood area", which is defined as the land area subject to flooding by waters of the Commonwealth on the average once every 100 years as shown on flood plain maps prepared by the U.S. Corps of Engineers or an interstate river basin commission. Farm ponds are specifically excluded. The bill also provides that

the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of field and orchard crops, including the maintenance of necessary appurtenant agricultural fencing, shall not be subject to regulation under this act.

I have worked on this bill for over three years and it has always been my intention to limit the bill's coverage to the 100 year flood zone, the same area subject to federal law for flood insurance purposes. There is nothing in this bill to support the conclusion that it is a state-wide land use bill. If there were, I would not sponsor the bill.

Senate Bill 1 has one purpose - to reduce future flood damage by regulating new construction in the 100 year flood zone for the entire

length of each stream on a consistent basis. Without this bill, some municipalities will take great efforts to protect themselves from future flood damage only to find their efforts jeopardized by upstream municipalities which are permitting construction to continue in the flood plain.

The taxpayers of Pennsylvania spent over \$200 million for flood relief after Hurricane Agnes, money that otherwise could have gone for tax relief. We are condemned to spending more tax dollars for future flood damages until we pass a bill like Senate Bill 1. That is why I am hopeful we can enact it this year.

Thank you.

Sen. Franklin Kury,
Chief Sponsor of S.B. 1

LANCASTER SILO CO., INC.

2008 Horseshoe Road - 2436 Creek Hill Road
LANCASTER, PA. 17601

"We Manufacture and Erect our Silos"

VIBRATED "LOCK-RIB" CORRUGATED CONCRETE STAVE SILOS

DAIRY AND BEEF FEEDLOT SYSTEMS
STARLINE EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE

STARLINE EQUIP.

SILO UNLOADERS
SHUTTLE FEEDERS
AUGER FEEDERS
CHAIN CONVEYORS
ROLLER MILLS
BARN CLEANERS
WATER BOWLS

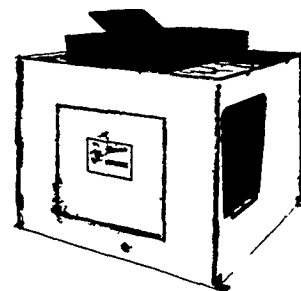
FEEDLOT EQUIP.

RITCHIE WATERERS
SILAGE WEIGHERS
PROTEIN METERS
56" SILO BLOWERS
HAY RACKS & GATES
CATTLE HEAD GATES
BARN FANS & WINDOWS

CUSTOM DESIGNED TAPER BOARD FEEDERS & DOUBLE CHAIN SLAT CONVEYORS (WOOD)

We stock a complete line of GE Farm Duty Motors. 3/4 H.P. thru 10 H.P. Single Phase Motors. Instant reverse motors 1 thru 3 H.P.

RITCHIE CATTLE & HOG WATERERS (ELECTRIC OR GAS)

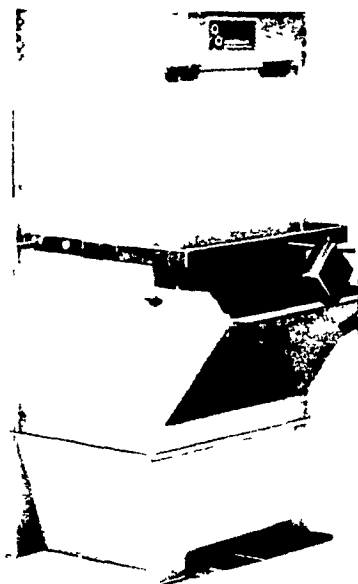


NEW

The Silage Weigher That Really Works

Increase Profits Weigh out the EXACT Ration that will give you maximum production No electric needed

For
* Corn Silage
* Haylage
* High Moisture Corn



USED EQUIP. SPECIALS:

Used 717 New Holland Harvester w/single row Corn Head - Good Condition
2 Used Starline Dual Auger Unloader Basic units 12-16 size - Less Motor - 295.00 ea.
1 - New Patz Unloader - Will fit 12' thru 16'.
1 Used Starline #70-16 Silo Unloader - Like New

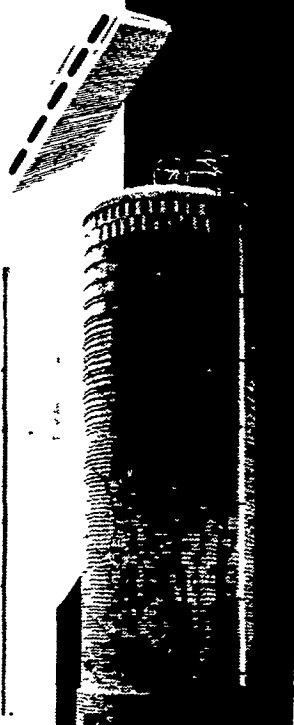
Service & Installation available for all items.

Call Larry Hiestand - Lancaster 392-9062
Lebanon 273-7394

MADISON SILOS

custom designed feeding system

Choose from available options to fit your needs
Retain the nutritional value of the feeds you ensile
Famous VIBRA-COR staves provide additional strength and insulation
Bottom unloading or top unloading systems available
Largest selling concrete stave silos in the world
Leasing plans available



Madison Silos Division Office, P. O. Box 271, Madison, Wis. 53701

MADISON SILOS

Div. Chromalloy American Corp
1070 Steinmetz Road
Ephrata PA 17522
Phone 733-1206

FRANK SNYDER

Akron 717 859-2688

LANDIS BROS. INC.

Lancaster 717 393-3906

CALEB WENGER

Quarryville 717 548-2116

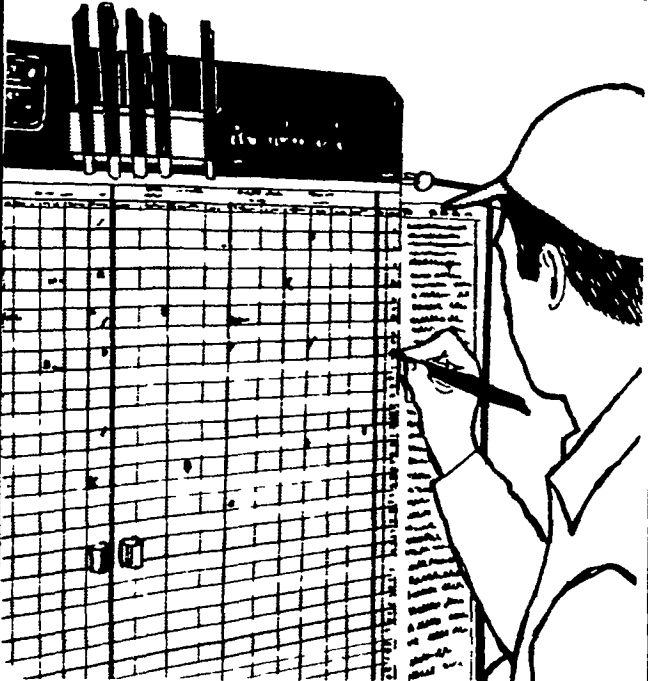
CARL L. SHIRK

Lebanon 717 274-1436

SOJLENBERGER FARM SUPPLY

Centerport, PA
Phone 215-926-2722

COWCULATOR



New scientific dairy herd record system!

Continuous chart with plexiglass cover lets you see at a glance all the details and condition of each individual cow. You can immediately check for heat pregnancy service and gestation. Also gives you a permanent visible health record of treatment and other important data. Write or telephone for complete information on this inexpensive new system.

ELMER M. MARTIN

R D 2, Myerstown, Pa
Phone 949-2081

AARON S. GROFF & SON

R D 3
Ephrata, Pa. 17522
Phone 354-0744