

Land use meeting leaves unanswered questions

By JOYCE BUPP
York County Reporter
YORK, Pa. - About 120 farmers and business people who attended the second public meeting on land use in York County on November 22 at the County Vo-Tech School still have questions con-

cerning Pennsylvania's Interim Policy Report on this subject. For instance, they wonder why it includes legislation covering tax reforms, centralized financing of education, and the attempt to reduce class disparity through residential zoning reforms.

Representing a cross-section of farm and interested urban individuals, the speakers at the meeting held to obtain citizen input into land use generally agreed that the Interim Policy leaves much to be desired. They see it as leading in the direction of centralized government becoming more involved in areas where it does not belong.

Speaking for the York County Farmers Association was Roger Perry, York R8, the organization's president. In a detailed statement, Perry indicated that the farm group appreciates the need for far-sighted land use planning and will work for whatever they feel is "best for the farmer."

"But we are opposed to centralized planning," Perry emphasized.

The Farmers Association plan would allow farmers to sell easements, or development rights. Once an easement on the property was sold, the land could only be used for farming or sold for that exclusive purpose.

The York Chamber of Commerce spoke for the urban business people of the community. Their representative was Executive Vice-President Carl Neu, who predicted the program will run into conflicts of interest. He, too, urged keeping final decision-

making within local municipalities.

Some speakers came from the southern portion of the county where one rural township was recently faced with an application for a large housing and apartment complex. The township residents turned out in large numbers at meetings and organized petition drives to ultimately have the plan rejected.

Giving the viewpoint of the county's membership in the National Farmers Union, Fred Sprenkle, York R6 said, "If commodity returns had kept pace with other costs, farmers would not be under the intense pressure to sell for development." The Farmers Union was opposed to the policies presently set up in the Interim Plan.

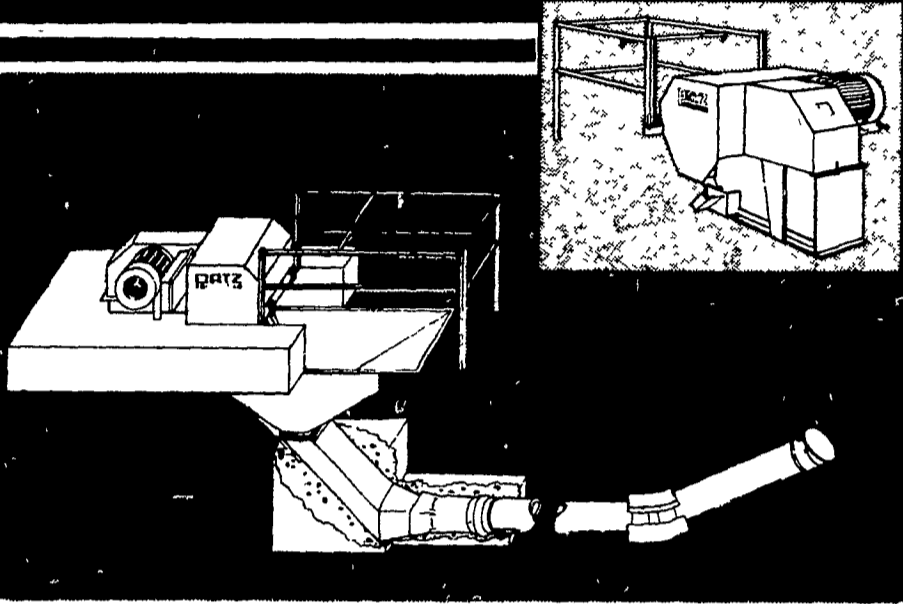
York County legislator, John Hope Anderson, New Park, attended the meeting and was asked for his comments after all other speakers had finished.

"We pass too many laws, and then pass implementation of them onto departments," said the legislator, who is also a farmer. "I believe the time is coming when legislators will have to write every chapter, every verse, of a law, rather than let some department head do it." Anderson cited the problems with OSHA as a prime example.

"Bombard us with ideas, suggestions, complaints," he urged.

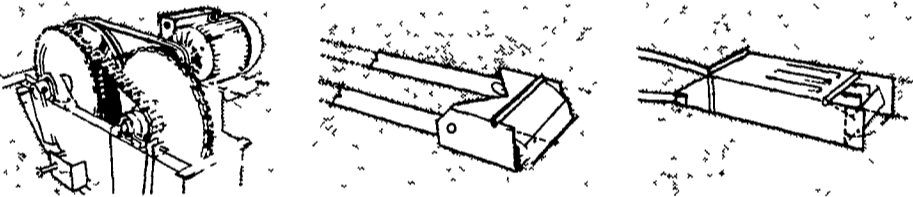
Only a few months remain for citizens to do just that. The Extension Office and the Planning Commission who sponsor the program along with the League of Women Voters are eagerly waiting for recommendations, in writing, on the published Interim Policy. All suggestions will be duplicated and sent on to the overseeing committee in Harrisburg.

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Applications accepted for education contest

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts will accept applications until March 31 for a national environmental conservation education contest honoring teachers who have incorporated environmental conservation education into their own disciplines.

The contest is sponsored jointly by the National Association of Conservation Districts and Allis-Chalmers Corporation.

Candidates are judged on the basis of their effectiveness in creating a favorable climate for environmental conservation education in the classroom; in organizing meaningful conservation field studies; in assisting in development of facilities to enhance environmental conservation in the school system; in creating an awareness of conservation and environmental problems and solutions with the community; and in motivating students to undertake studies and action projects in conservation for community improvement.

The national prize for the winning teacher is \$1500 and an expense-paid trip to the 1977 National Association of Conservation Districts convention in Anaheim, Calif. The runner-up receives a cash award of \$300. Winners in each NACD region receive \$200.

Applications forms are available from local conservation districts or from the Division of Conservation Districts, Department of Environmental Resources, Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

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