

Sophisticated land-use maps ready

HARRISBURG - Detailed land use maps of the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been completed by the United States Geological Survey under a cooperative agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Representatives of the Federal agency gave the completed land use maps to DE's Secretary Maurice Goddard on April 22 in ceremonies in the Secretary's office.

Goddard noted that Pennsylvania is one of the first states in the nation to have a complete land use survey using the sophisticated new techniques devised by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The LUIA (Land Use Data Analysis) program was introduced by the U.S.G.S. in 1974. Utilizing the latest photo imagery available from high altitude planes, the land use and land cover classification system can recognize and delineate as many as 37 separate land use categories, some for areas as small as 10 acres. The scale of the final maps which have been prepared is 1-250,000 or approximately one inch on the map equalling four miles on the ground.

Recognizing the potential benefits to the Commonwealth and its various planning and economic programs, DER's Bureau of

Topographic and Geologic Survey, with the cooperation of the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Systems Management, worked to arrange a cooperative agreement with the U.S.G.S. in 1975 to prepare land use and land cover maps for all of Pennsylvania.

For this project, Pennsylvania was divided into 14 subdivisions each of which corresponded to a standard 1:250,000 scale topographic base map.

For each of the 14 base maps, six overlays were compiled including the land use and land cover map which identifies 30 different categories of land use. Other overlays show county boundaries, river basin boundaries, State land areas, Federal lands and county census subdivisions.

One of the most important aspects of this new mapping program is that the data

have been digitized and placed on magnetic tapes so they can be sorted in a computer, analyzed in various ways. The data also can be updated readily as newer information becomes available in future years.

Changes in land use will be identifiable, both in type and quantity. With the data digitized, it will be possible to enter other map data into the system and print overlays of other mappable characteristics. Thus, local, state or regional users of land use data will be able to update and add new categories of data or devise systems for subdividing the existing categories.

In announcing completion of the land use maps, Goddard noted they can be a valuable tool or anyone involved in comprehensive land use planning. These maps and data should benefit State and local

government agencies, transportation planners, industry, energy planners, agriculture, conservation groups and recreation agencies.

The initial 98 maps and overlays being delivered by the U.S.G.S. (seven for each of the 14 subdivisions) will be housed and maintained at the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, 914 Executive House, Second and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg. The maps will be available for review and inspection at the Bureau offices and may be copied at the users expense.

The digitized data on computer tapes from which the map was plotted will be finished in approximately three months and will be housed and made available through the Bureau of Systems Management, Second Floor, Fulton National building, Third and Locust Streets.

Poultry leaders in Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Officers and directors of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, Pacific Egg & Poultry Association, Southeastern Poultry & Egg Association and United Egg Producers met here earlier this month to discuss legislative and regulatory matters with Congressmen and Federal Agency officials.

At a joint meeting on Monday afternoon, April 18, Harold Ford, Southeastern's executive director, briefed the group on wage legislation and regulatory reform, Carl Nall, Pacific's executive director, covered modification of the Delaney Amendment; Dick Ammon of NEPPCO gave an update on the Farm Bill; and Jim Fleming, UEP's government relations director, discussed the controversial report of the Senate Select committee

on Nutrition containing "Dietary Goals for the United States."

Mrs. Carol Tucker Foreman, assistant secretary of agriculture, concluded the session with a report on the current reorganization within USDA. Following the meeting, the four sponsoring groups played host to some 30 top officials of USDA and several other agencies at a reception held in a Capitol Hill hotel.

On Tuesday, April 19, directors of the four groups visited senators and representatives to present the industry's views on legislative issues. The day was capped with a reception in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol attended by some 75 industry men and over 125 Solons and members of their staffs.

Eggs down

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Pennsylvania layers produced 268 million eggs during March 1977, down seven per cent from a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Service.

The March average of 12.8 million layers was seven per cent below a year earlier. Egg production per 100 layers during March totaled

2,099 eggs compared with 2,093 a year ago.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.6 billion eggs during March, slightly fewer than a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 274.8 million compared with 277.7 a year earlier. The number of eggs produced per 100 layers during the month was one percent above a year ago.

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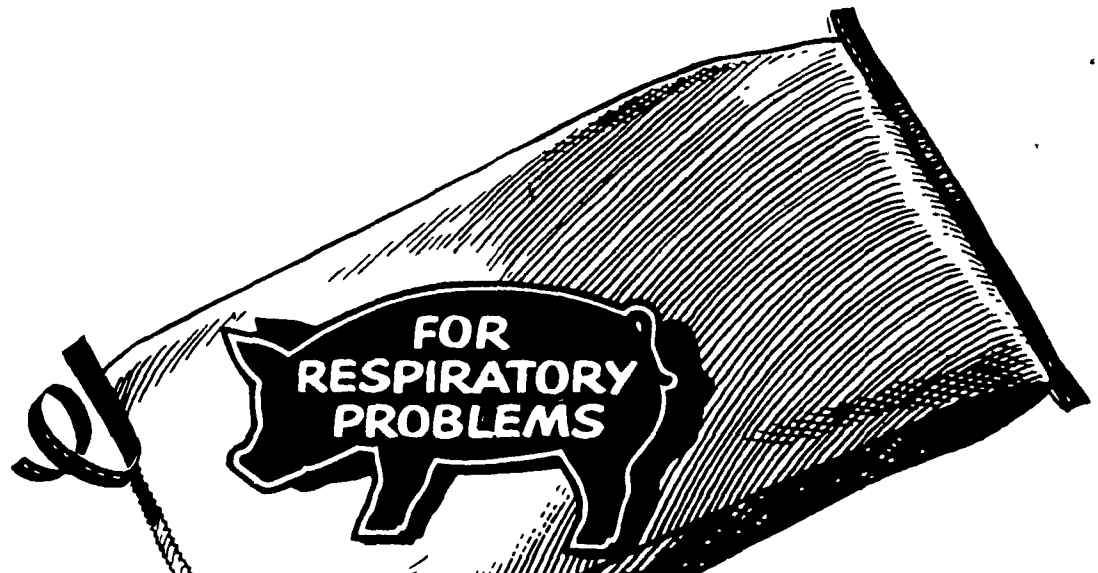


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