

Small watershed projects under review

HARRISBURG, Pa.—At President Carter's request, the USDA, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), is conducting a review of all small watershed projects in Pennsylvania under construction or approved for construction, SCS state conservationist Graham T. Munkittrick said recently. Projects under review include those administered by SCS under PL-566 which

limits the size of watershed area to no more than 250,000 acres. The multipurpose projects called for land treatment to reduce soil erosion and siltation. They usually include such flood prevention structures as earthen dams and water impoundments. Many projects also provide the local inhabitants with domestic and industrial water supply, recreation,

and fish and wildlife habitat. Munkittrick said the review will be made in two phases. "The first screening," he said, "will be to identify those projects that are unquestionably sound environmentally, economically, and from the standpoint of safety of structures. This phase is to be completed by April 29, 1977."

The SCS official said projects that do not pass the initial screening will un-

dergo more thorough study, with the process to be completed by June 15, 1977. Projects then selected for public hearings will be announced on June 17, 1977.

Munkittrick gave his assurance that any hearings will be held in the vicinity of the project before July 1, 1977. Final recommendations on projects will be provided to the President by July 15, 1977.

State conservationists said projects that pass the initial

screening will have to meet the following three criteria: (1) no additional major adverse environmental impacts would result from project completion; (2) the ratio of remaining direct benefits to remaining direct costs exceeds unity when discounted at the rate of 6% per cent; and (3) no creditable question remains to be resolved concerning the safety of the project structure.

The Pennsylvania review is part of a government-wide study of all water resource projects ordered by President Carter. An interagency task force coordinated by the Council on

Environmental Quality and the President's Office of Management and Budget developed the criteria. The total number of SCS projects being reviewed nationally is 1185.

The following are the small watershed projects being reviewed by SCS in Pennsylvania: Brandywine Creek, Briar Creek, Brodhead Creek, Cross Creek, Dunlap Creek, Greene-Dreher Creek, Harmon Creek, Jacobs Creek, Little Schuylkill Creek, Little Shenango, Middle Creek, Nescopeck Creek, Neshaminy Creek, Oil Creek, Wheeling Creek, and Pine Run Creek.

Bill passed to protect farmland along with Appalachian Trail

HARRISBURG - Rep. Noah W. Wenger, R-Lancaster, has announced that a measure to save the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania has been passed overwhelmingly in the House along with his amendment for the preservation of farmland along the trail.

Wenger said the legislation would protect the 200 miles of the trail that pass through Pennsylvania from commercial encroachment.

The measure contains Wenger's amendment to insure that land acquired by the State to preserve the pathway does not infringe on valuable farmland.

The conservation bill provides the State with \$500,000 to acquire land through which the trail passes, but under the Wenger amendment, acquisition by eminent domain of tillable farmland would be limited to a footpath with a width of not more than 25 feet across the land.

The amendment further provides that limited acquisition applies until the owner of such land states an intention to convert the land to nonfarming use.

"The House passage of the Appalachian Trail bill is an important step forward in preserving an invaluable natural resource. I hope the State Senate concurs and that all states from Maine to Georgia through which the trail passes will take similar action," Wenger said.

"I am very pleased that my amendment was also passed because farmland is a valuable natural resource too and must also be protected."

The Lancaster County legislator, who is a member of the House Conservation Committee, said the Appalachian Trail measure would designate the trail as a footpath and prohibit the use of motorized vehicles by the general public, in addition to mandating the preservation and maintenance responsibilities of each municipality through which the trail passes.

Wenger said the federal government will match the amount of money the State decides to spend to save the trail from land developers and private landowners who are currently buying real estate adjacent to the historic and scenic path.

FFA holds election

ELVERSON, Pa. - The regular meeting of the Twin Valley Future Farmers of America was held April 5. President Ted Ford opened the meeting with the regular opening ceremonies.

The main topic for the meeting was the election of 1977-78 chapter officers. Nominations were taken and

then the chapter proceeded to vote.

The results are as follows: President, Clarence Jennelle; vice president, Howie Griest; secretary, Deb Ford; chaplain, Tom Kirk; treasurer, Danny Mosteller; reporter, Doris Mast; sentinel, Jim Mimm and historian, Sandi Shade.

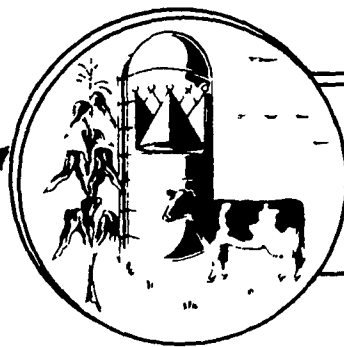
E-town 4-H club shown castration

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. - Members of the Elizabethtown 4-H Pig and Rabbit Club learned how to castrate pigs at their most recent meeting, held at the Warren Heisey farm, near

here. The operation was demonstrated by Heisey.

The treasurer's report revealed that the club has \$7. The county council report was given by Tom Baum.

The next meeting will be held on May 24.

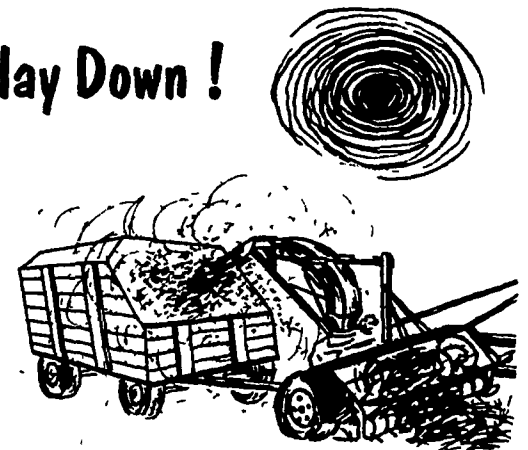


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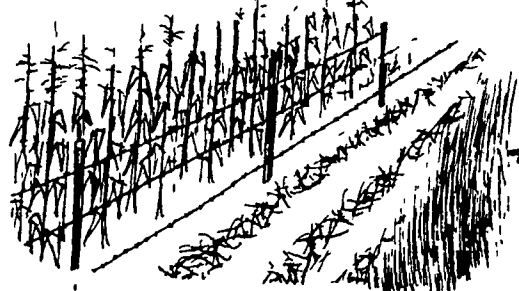
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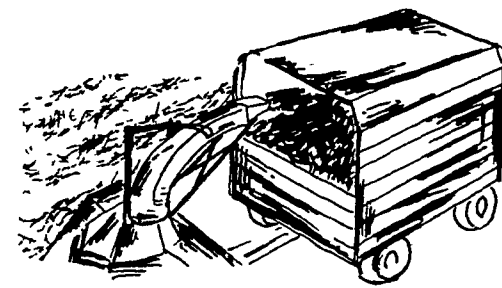
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