

# Solanco sweeps county judging contest

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 29, 1978—25



Seven Solanco High School sophomores captured the top team award and four individual honors in the Lancaster County Future Farmers of America land judging contest held Tuesday. From left to right (standing) they are: Gary Eberly, Steve Herr, and Betty Trimble, all members of the first place team; Karl Frey, third place individual; and

Tom Aument, fifth place individual. Kneeling are Dave Holzauer, top land judge in the contest; and Tina Bucher, second ranking judge and team member. The team will now enter the national land judging contest in Oklahoma City this coming week.

## Tomorrow marks start of Soil Stewardship Week

LANCASTER -- The United States' annual loss of five million acres of rural land to non-agricultural use is a special concern during this year's celebration of Soil Stewardship Week, April 29 to May 7, 1978, Aaron Z. Stauffer, chairman of the Lancaster County Conservation District has announced.

This year's Soil Stewardship Week theme, "Compelling Ventures," also stresses the importance of controlling water pollution caused by runoff from unprotected farms, ranches, roadsides, and construction sites, Stauffer added.

Soil Stewardship Week is a nationwide observance which emphasizes man's responsibility to protect and conserve soil, water, and other natural resources. Traditionally, churches and local citizens groups participate.

"Nearly 3,000 conservation districts throughout the U.S. will focus their attention upon conserving and preserving America's best farmlands during this 21st annual observance of Soil Stewardship Week," Stauffer said. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that of the five million acres annually lost to

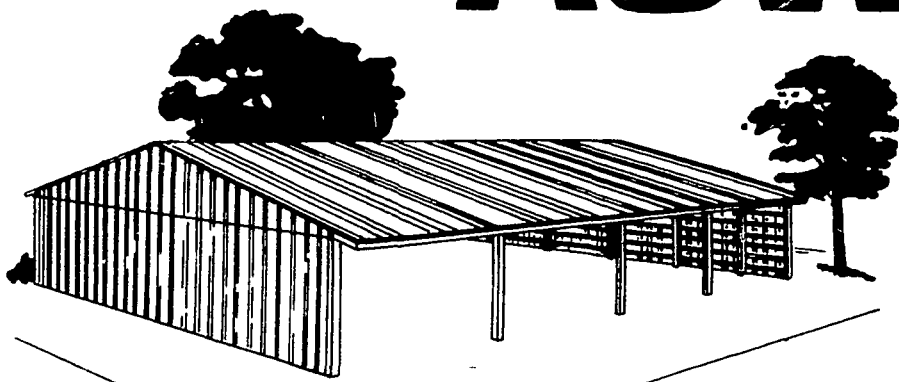
agriculture, nearly one million acres are classed as 'prime' land, the best and most productive land we have. We are encouraging the preservation of these top-quality farmlands for farming rather than their indiscriminate use for housing developments, highways, shopping centers, and the like."

Among the district churches that are scheduling special Soil Stewardship services are: E. Fairview Church of the Brethren, Manheim; Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church, East Earl; Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren; Mechanics Grove Church of the Brethren; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Millersville; St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Litzitz; First Church of God, Elizabethtown.

J. Everett Kreider is Chairman of the Soil Stewardship Committee for Lancaster County.

The 1978 Soil Stewardship Week reference booklet, "Compelling Ventures," and related materials are available to local churches and community groups through the Lancaster Conservation District. The publications were prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

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