

# Land use study approved

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Commissioners and the directors of the Lancaster Conservation District have formally requested the participation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in a study of Lancaster

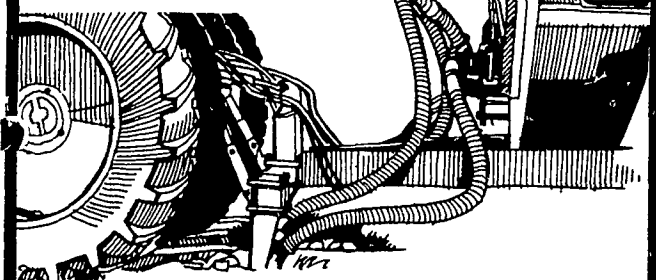
County's land and water resources. The proposed study would culminate investigations undertaken by the Land Use Committee of the Lancaster Association of Commerce and Industry during the past year. The Land Use Committee, recognizing that the

limited resources in Lancaster County are subject to demands from a number of competitive uses, believes that additional information regarding agricultural requirements, relative to those of other legitimate uses, is needed to assist in long-range planning for the County's future.

After a series of discussions with agricultural economist from both state and federal levels, the Committee resolved to encourage and assist in the development of a system for maintaining a current inventory of Lancaster County's land and water resource needs, which could be readily updated for continuing use by local planners. The Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicated that funding for a two-year period may be available for this study, as a pilot project.

The Lancaster Association of Commerce and Industry, therefore, endorsed the project, and proposed it to the Lancaster County Planning Commission, with the recommendation that the Lancaster County Commissioners file the formal application necessary to initiate the project. The proposal was reviewed and approved by both Planning Commission and its Land Use Advisory Committee, and the letter of application was subsequently prepared. This application, if ap-

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# FAPRS program a success

HARRISBURG — Calling the Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System "an unqualified success," Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer is urging Pennsylvania's rural communities to take advantage of the Agriculture Department's free service.

Shelhamer said that in the first two years of operation, 2,300 requests were received by the Agriculture Department for information. These requests came from not only state and local government, but also from consulting firms and other private organizations.

The Agriculture Secretary

said that the FAPRS program, as administered by the Department, includes technical assistance on followup work, researching grant possibilities, contacting federal agencies and completing applications and project proposals.

"Most rural communities cannot afford a full time grant planner," Shelhamer said, "and are not familiar with federal or private assistance programs. Through the FAPRS program this information and technical assistance is readily available to our rural governments."

He said the program could be a valuable asset to Pennsylvania's rural

community, citing a \$405,000 medical grant obtained for the Southern Huntingdon Medical Center in Orbanonia, Huntingdon County.

The program could be used more fully by rural municipalities, he said. "They are not taking full advantage of technical assistance which can be valuable in project planning. Where unemployment is a serious problem, communities are not checking with federal employment services nor with social service funding possibilities."

"The value of the FAPRS program cannot be overstated," he said. "But rural communities must take advantage of this free service in order to reap the benefits."

## Crop sign-up period extended

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced that the sign-up period for the 1978 feed grain, wheat and cotton programs has been extended through May 15.

The extension was made because of changes in the programs announced March 29 by the Vice President and Secretary Bergland. These changes included provision for additional diversion under the cotton and feed grain programs and the

option under the wheat program to graze out wheat or harvest hay on a percentage of the planted acreage.

The action on the Emergency Agricultural Act of 1978 on April 12 in the House of Representatives leaves unchanged the three programs as announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some farmers had contacted the Department after the House vote to learn whether this action affected the programs.



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