

Conservation needs of Lancaster Co. discussed

By KENDACE BORRY
LANCASTER — As part of their continuing effort to serve the nation's water and soil conservation needs, the Soil Conservation Service and the USDA are in the process of appraising the public's ideas of the resource problems, opportunities, and needs.

On that basis, a meeting was held recently at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, sponsored by the Lancaster Conservation District and the USDA Soil Conservation Service. During that meeting, interested residents of Lancaster County were given the opportunity to make known their suggestions for future resource conservation programs in Lancaster County.

Those present had many ideas about the way the conservation program should go and the problems that it should focus on.

According to Warren Archibald, district conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, and Tom Johnston, district administrator for the Lancaster Conservation District, concerns dealt mainly with water problems and land use.

Under water concerns, the public expressed interest in preserving the county's quality and quantity of water present. Erosion and sedimentation problems were discussed, including the aspects of rural, urban, stream, reservoir, and excess storm water damage.

Concerning the storm-

water which is excess and creates difficulties for area residents, the citizens spoke of using retention type basins in storm water management and surface water control solutions.

Land use topics brought up at the meeting dealt with three main aspects; those of urban sprawl, flood plains, and buildings on the flood plains.

Energy conservation was another subject which was brought up for the county's attention. Also comments were centered on manure management as concerns were expressed on this problem.

Economic problems, and the lack of money to do an adequate job for the problems affecting Lancaster County was a topic time too was spent on during the two hour meeting. Citizens brought out their concern about the lack of adequate funds to carry out legislation, taxes being too high, and the unfairness of the present inheritance taxes.

They also asked for uniformity in the land use plans that are used in the county.

Other comments made during the discussion included a statement concerning the greed of people when they try to get the most out of their soils without caring for it properly; the price of land being too costly; and the fact that developers are buying prime farm land for development, among others.

As part of the evening's

meeting, Aaron Z. Stauffer, chairman of the Lancaster Conservation District explained the relationship of the conservation district and the soil conservation service.

He outlined the basic objectives of the conservation district. These included:

The wise use of the county's natural resources;

The provision of the best environment for the health and welfare of the general public by wise planning of air, soil and water conditions, open space, safety, and tax base;

The use and maintenance of the agricultural and non-agricultural lands of the county through the use of sound conservation planning and treatment that will provide the maximum economic or social benefits to the present and future residents;

The promotion of public awareness of environmental relationships within Lancaster County; and

The cooperation with all agencies and groups concerned with planning and use of natural resources;

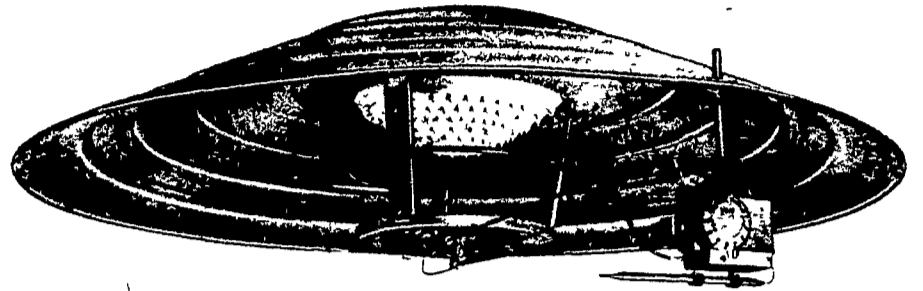
According to Archibald, all concerns which were brought out at the meeting will be related to higher levels of the Soil Conservation Service. The Lancaster County report will be sent to the state where it will be compiled with other reports before being sent to the national level.

There, programs will be developed to address the major concerns.

Archibald also related that the public will again have the chance to check and

approve these programs through formal public review and field hearings.

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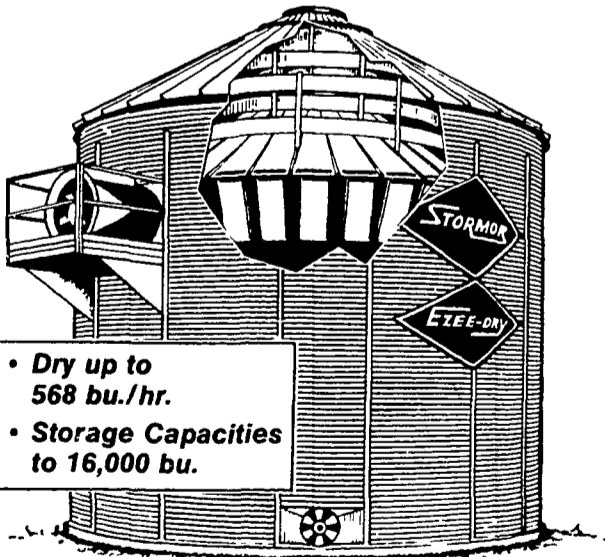
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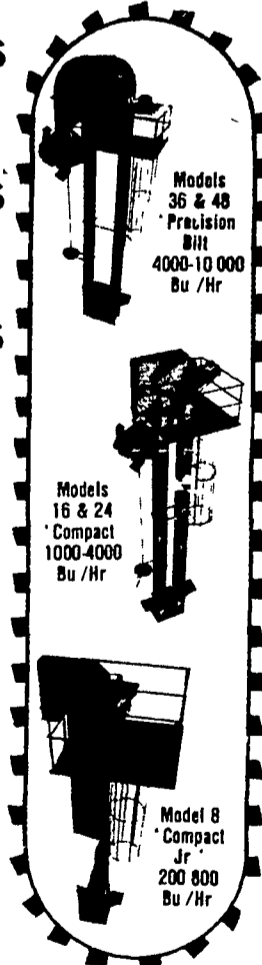
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