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Warwick Twp. considers ag. district

By BONNIE SZYMANSKI
Littitz Record-Express
LITITZ — A dozen Warwick Township farmers are on the threshold of endorsing a new concept in agricultural land preservation.

After spending almost a year in the planning of it, the group has tentatively approved an ordinance, amending the 1976 revised zoning ordinance, to provide for an agricultural district in Warwick Township.

If after public hearings the Board of Supervisors enacts the ordinance, Warwick Township would become one of several municipalities in the county to sanction the establishment of such a district.

A nearby municipality that adopted an agricultural district ordinance recently was Mount Joy Township. The Board of Supervisors there adopted the ordinance this summer according to John Hoenenwater, vice chairman of the Mount Joy Township Planning Commission.

Max Smith, county agricultural Extension agent, described Warwick Township's situation as "unique" in that "it's the first time a group of farmers in one area has banded together to sign an going, viable major component of the economy."

All of which means the farmers within this district have voluntarily agreed to keep their land in agriculture and not sell to housing developers.

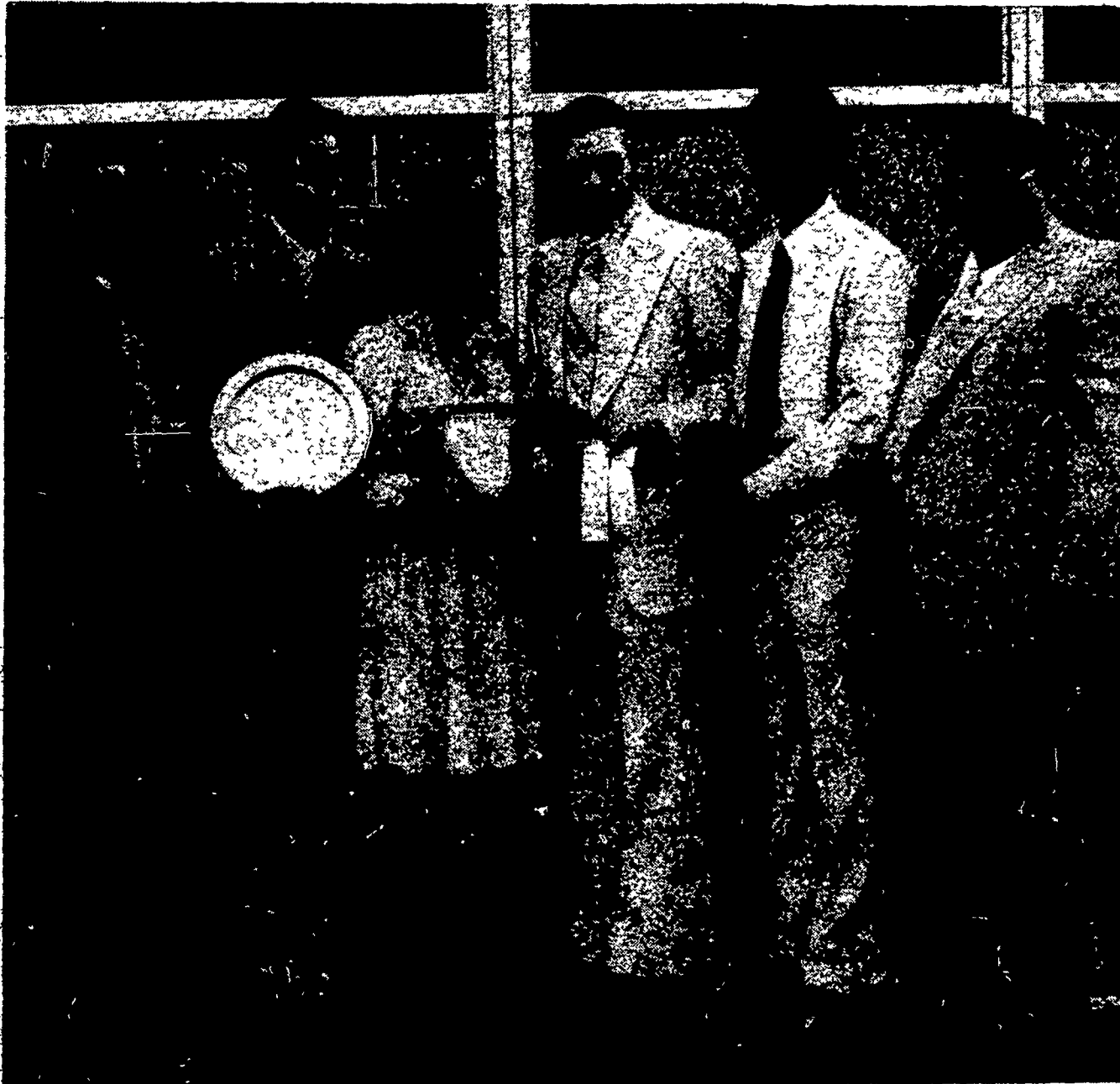
Their intent is "to encourage the preservation of the most productive farmland... as a valuable resource which is lost and not reclaimable once it is developed for building purposes."

Permitted in the district would be general farming operations and related agricultural activities such as plant nurseries. On-site sale of products produced on the premises also would be permitted.

Logically, the family home would be an allowable living unit in the district, and provisions for resident owner subdivisions also have been outlined in the ordinance.

According to the ordinance, a special exception may be granted for a farmer to subdivide a tract of land, providing he has more than twenty acres, to be used as

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Team coach Tony Dobrosky, left, and assistant Merrill Crone, right, pose with their award-winning 4-H livestock judging team. Members are, left to

right, Tim Beck, Brenda Werner, David Wise, and Harris Wright. All are York Countians.

Brenda Werner wins \$1000 scholarship

Top livestock judges keep on winning

YORK — York County's 4-H livestock judging team has been bringing home high honors ever since they won the state title at University Park in August.

At their most recent test of skills, in Timonium, Md.,

they placed fourth with a total of 2470 points. The contest was held during the Eastern National Livestock Exposition. Sixteen teams, representing states from as far away as the Midwest, competed in the annual

contest. The top-placing team was from Minnesota with a team score of 2530 points.

A recent major victory for the team came in Richmond, Va., on Sept. 23 when the team competed at the

Eastern United States livestock judging contest. The team, composed of Brenda Werner, Hanover R2; Tim Beck, Seven Valleys R2; Harris Wright, Abbottstown R1; and David

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Lamar Witmer wins Manheim Holstein show

By DIETER KRIEG
MANHEIM — Lamar Witmer, who is a dairy farmer in the strictest sense of the word, won the Holstein show at the Manheim Fair on Thursday night.

Saying that cows are a relatively inexpensive investment, compared to farmland and machinery, the 22-year old Witmer said he has put all of his resources in dairy cattle. He owns 20 head and keeps them in a rented barn and pasture.

After just 1½ years in business, the young man decided to give show ring competition a try. He came with a 4-year old daughter of Paclamar Triune Complete

and a 5-year old daughter of Ravenglen Reflection Adonis. Both cows stood first in their class. The 4-year old was chosen senior and grand champion. It was the first time the Manheim youth had

competed in the Manheim Fair's Holstein show.

Witmer runs his own dairy operation without ties to his parents' business, he said. But he still helps from time to time with the work at the

home farm. On Thursday night, for example, he showed four Holsteins for his father, Harold, of Manheim R3. Those entries, like his own, did well. The elder Witmer was awarded ribbons for first-place junior calf, first-place junior yearling, second-place 2-year old, and third-place 3-year old.

Witmer's grand champion is classified Very Good - 86. She is credited with an Excellent mammary system and is currently milking close to 100 pounds a day, said her owner. She had an 18,000 pound record as a 3-year old.

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Potatoes harvested, prices low

By KENDACE BERRY
LITITZ — A look around the Lancaster Farming area finds most potato farmers finished or in the process of "just finishing up" their potato harvesting, reports show this week. A combination of good weather resulting in very good digging conditions found most farmers getting their potatoes out of the ground slightly earlier this year than last year.

From Lancaster county, farmers reported just about completed in their potato digging, telling of a very good crop with an excellent growing season. Noah Kreider, Jr., Manheim; who said he finished with his 325 acres about a week ago; said he thought that the yield this year was slightly above average with the quality excellent.

He stated that he knew of no real problems that were giving farmeres problems digging, although he noted that the prices seemed below average this year, in fact, calling them poor, he said that this is not a good potato-selling year.

"There are too many potatoes, and the market is depressed," he related. "The Delaware, New Jersey, Eastern Shore, and Virginia potatoes brought bigger yields this year later in the season. There were just too many potatoes for the beginning of September."

"When it was real wet," he continued, "in the beginning of August, the potatoes couldn't be dug, and they were brought in from Ohio and Wisconsin. That didn't help the market situation either."

From York County, farmers too told of finishing up with their potato harvest, although they seemed to find the quality of the crop down this year.

"Not too good" is the way John S. Thompson, Shrewsbury, put it. He went on to say that the potatoes just didn't chip too good, putting the blame on "too much rain at the wrong time."

He added that he sold his crop but that it wasn't the best that he had seen in his fields.

"The price is off a bit," he noted, "There seems to be a lot of second growth and green potatoes, and again the problem was the rain. The early potatoes were real

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