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Ag preservation group formed

By SALLY BAIR
Staff Writer

LANCASTER - The Lancaster County Commissioners have taken a firm stand in favor of the preservation of valuable farmland in this county. On Wednesday, the Commissioners announced a 14-member Agriculture Preservation Task Force to study how deed restrictions could be used by farmers to ensure that their land will remain in agricultural production, and to make specific suggestions for financing and implementing the program.

In announcing the task force, the Commissioners showed their deep concern for the loss of prime farm-

land in this county which now amounts to 7,000 acres annually. A prepared statement said, "The County would strive to protect much of its prime agricultural land by having it put under deed restrictions which would prevent its development. It is anticipated that the deed restrictions would most often be established when agricultural land changes hands."

In a telephone interview with *Lancaster Farming*, Board Chairman Jack F. Tracy, himself a member of the new committee, said, "We've got to take positive steps to save that which can't be replaced - our wonderful farmland. It can get cold and people can go

without gas and oil, but if there comes a time when there is no food, we will face an uncontrollable crisis." He said that Lancaster County agriculture is a productive part of the society and it must be preserved.

Tracy said the Commissioners have been concerned about the problem for some time and have had extensive discussions about it. He credited Aaron Z. Stauffer, Amos H. Funk and Charles S. Conrad, Jr., with being "three of the motivators behind the idea. The simplicity of it overwhelmed us. We know there is a lot of the agricultural community that wants to preserve the land, and a certain sector is

willing to preserve it voluntarily. There is stability in farmers who want to remain farmers."

The proposed report, which is due in February, is intended to give those people who are looking for it a means to preserve their land. "We want to lock in the land for future generations." He said he hopes the task force will serve as a motivation for the agricultural community and industry.

Tracy, although raised as a city boy, worked on a farm as a young boy, and said he wishes more youngsters could have the experiences he had.

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Offer
unto God
Thanksgiving
and pay
thy vow
unto
the
Most High.
Psalms 50:14

Turkeys are a full time concern

By JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

ABBOTTSTOWN -- Although there's a reported turkey shortage this year as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, you're hard put to believe that when you drive into the Pigeon Hill farm at Abbottstown R2.

As York County's largest turkey producer, the Pigeon Hill operation grows out 100,000 of the big birds annually. The entire production of the meaty Nicholas whites is under contract to Round Hill Foods, a local processing concern located nearby in the quiet Route 30 village of Abbottstown.

Pigeon Hill, also known for top quality Hereford breeding stock, is owned by F. Malcolm Wright, head surgeon at the Hanover General Hospital. Both the turkey and cow-calf herd are directed by Terry Shearer, farm manager who's overseen the operation for six years. He's assisted by the full-time man, his cousin Douglas Shearer.

"Turkeys are a full-time concern," says Shearer. "They're the first thing we check in the morning and the last thing at night."

Seven long growing houses cover the hills of the 200 acre farm, located on the York-dams county line, with most of the land on the York side. After purchasing the bothills property ten years ago, Wright put in the first turkeys, finishing them out in the range.

When Hurricane Agnes (Turn to Page 26)



Terry Shearer, right, and his assistant Douglas Shearer, check a bird in one of the Pigeon Hills Farms' seven turkey houses. This one was filled to

capacity with 5000 Toms destined for holiday feasts.

Butz displeased with welfare society

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - In what has become routine for him, former USDA Secretary Earl Butz hit the government with another merciless public tongue lashing on

Thursday night. It was the third time in less than two weeks that the fiery, controversial Butz had an occasion to speak his mind in this part of the country.

He did just that when he

appeared on stage before the sixty-first annual banquet of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative. Earlier this month Butz spoke at a Delaware gathering and on Tuesday he addressed the

65th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Farm and Power Equipment Association.

Wherever he goes, Butz attracts crowds and declares (Turn to Page 29)

Huyard shows champion 4-H steer

By KENDACE BORRY
LANCASTER - Lancaster County's 4-H champion steer, shown by Darlene Huyard, 15, of Lancaster, was named the top animal in the Southeast

District 4-H Baby Beef Show held Tuesday of this week.

Her purebred Angus steer named Sarge topped the 72 other entries from Lancaster, Dauphin, and Chester County.

This is the young lady's

first purebred Angus and first champion. The steer competed in the heavyweight division, weighing 1325 pounds.

Named reserve champion at the district show was Bill Wylie's Simmental-Charol-

ais-Angus crossbred. The Nottingham R2 youth's steer had placed second in its class behind Miss Huyard's animal.

It was a double winning day for Wylie as he was also (Turn to Page 34)

Crops may be future fuel source

By DIETER KRIEG

LITITZ - An energy program which will give farmers an extra outlet for farm products is surfacing in various parts of the country and is being introduced in the East. The idea is to produce alcohol from crops such as corn, wheat, barley, timber, sugar beets, etc., and mix the fluid with conventional fuels.

According to Mo Campbell, a marketing consultant for some of the top motor racing talent in the country, and a partner in Mar-Cam Industries, Inc., the renewable fuel - termed "gasohol" is already being produced and used in the Midwest and South. His company is vying for marketing rights in the East.

Gasohol is considered by some to be America's answer to offset the high-priced oil imports from the Arab nations and as such considerable support for such programs is surfacing in the nation's capital, as well as vast stretches of farmland.

Dick Merritt, for example, represents the Nebraska Gasohol Commission in Washington, D.C. Some midwestern farmers have gone so far as to form cooperatives for the production and marketing of the product. In the South, too, a farmers' cooperative is mixing gasohol with common fuels in its vehicles.

According to Campbell, gasohol is an up and coming fuel for the nation. He predicts that it's just a

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