

Lancaster Farmer's Association calls for deed restrictions

BY CURT HARLER
INTERCOURSE—A resolution to support deed restrictions was approved by the Lancaster County Farmer's Association Monday at the group's 23rd meeting. Deed restrictions would be placed on agricultural land in the county to preserve prime farmland.

The proposal would allow agriculture to retain 287,000 acres of prime farm land in Lancaster County. An additional 100,000 acres currently near water and sewer lines would be allowed to go into development.

Association President Earl Newcomer emphasized the deed restriction proposal would not go into effect without local hearings nor without the full input of township residents. Any move to establish agricultural preservation areas would require action by the state legislature.

The proposal, put forth by Amos Funk, R 1 Millersville, also provides cash incentives for farmers to place deed restrictions on their land. Funds for the incentives would come from the county treasury.

Funk said he feels the money needed to initiate the deed proposal would be insignificant when compared to the value of this nation's top farm land.

The proposal also provides a method for the county to place a deed restriction on any land which comes on the market without an agricultural restriction in the deed.

Under the proposal, the county would be empowered to purchase any farm for one dollar above the sale price.

The county, as temporary owner of the property, would then insert the deed restriction. The property would immediately be placed back on the market for sale to the highest bidder.

By designating a given area as an agricultural area a deed restriction would free farmers from nuisance complaints made by neighbors.

Each farmer within an agricultural district would be allowed to farm using his best management practices.

Complaints about spreading manure, noisy sheep at lambing time, or objections to hog and poultry facilities would not be allowed to interfere with a farmer's plans for his operation.

Objections to the proposal centered around the problem of allowing a present owner of a given property to determine the land's use for all time.

In other action at the meeting, the Farmer's Association approved resolutions recommending land owners be responsible for retaining permanent soil conservation practices which government cost sharing funds have provided.

Members recommended the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association oppose all efforts to legalize casino gambling in Pennsylvania. They called for taxation of land and businesses under foreign ownership to be the same as it is for U.S. citizens.

Members went on record demanding proper methods of disposal of radioactive waste be found before further construction of nuclear power plants. They opposed

declaration of Gay Pride Week for the state.

They recommended investigations be made on feasibility of using present systems to turn solid waste into usable energy. They also asked any manufacturer who contributes heavy metals to a sewerage plant be required to remove such heavy metals before dumping materials into the treatment plant, thus making the sludge safe for agricultural land.

Recommendations that Johnsongrass be eradicated and that the state provide funding on a pilot basis for an eradication program were approved.

Members called for a review of workmens compensation rates and asked PFA to look into setting up its own workmens compensation insurance program.

Members asked for open season on foxes and raccoons.

They recommended continued pressure to be kept on for legislation to oppose the Delaney Amendment which provides a zero-based tolerance in food additives thought to cause cancer.

The Association members voted to have Farm Bureau or some other non-governmental agency research the possibilities of commodity price fixing through the use of futures markets.

They asked for a shift in the Municipalities Act which would take planning commission powers from the county level down to local municipalities.

Members approved resolutions calling for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to keep gutters properly graded. They also recommended

railroads maintain their right of way where tracks cross public roads.

A proposal to place the liability for accidents caused by poor condition of rural bridges on the owner of the vehicle involved in such an accident was defeated. The purpose for the proposal was to relieve the county of responsibility for any injury or death as the result of such accident.

But a resolution recommending bridges on rural roads be open to legal truck loads, be repaired immediately, or be closed was approved.

Members concerned with the high cost of workmens compensation were advised to crawl out of their shells and get to know their legislators personally.

John Henry Brubaker, Secretary of the state Association of Meat Processors and a member of the County Farmer's Association, told farmers that while agriculture is being hit for the first time other businesses have been burdened by workmens compensation insurance for years.

An estimated \$1,500 of the cost of a new home and about \$600 a year for each hospital bed is a direct result of the cost of workmens compensation insurance.

Farmers pay nowhere near the premium rates some industries like steel or mining pay. But, Brubaker pointed out, the farmer has no way to pass his costs on to the consumer.

"Workmens compensation is a legislative act which has to be corrected at the grassroots level," Brubaker said.

"Labor is strong, but so is business. Farmers are small businessmen and they need to get politically motivated and fight back," he said.

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★ **AXLES**: Series axles use 6" x 6" x 3/8" wall arms, strapped to 6" main axle tube for extreme strength. Axle wheel arms positioned under frame, so spindles are shorter and stronger. Spindles tube-braced to stand extra stress. All spindles same size, may be interchanged. Standard tires are 11.00 x 15, 8-ply rated.

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24" Blades, .313 Gauge Front, .250 Gauge Rear, 1 3/4" Diameter Shaft

Disc Size	Blade Size	Blade Spacing	Blade Count	Approx. Weight
9'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	13 Front, 12 Rear	6457#
10'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	15 Front, 14 Rear	7026#
12'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	17 Front, 16 Rear	7374#
14'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	19 Front, 17 Rear	7833#
16'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	22 Front, 20 Rear	8618#
18'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	24 Front, 22 Rear	9491#
20'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	27 Front, 24 Rear	10,249#
22'	24" x .313 Ga 24" x .250 Ga	9 x 10 1/2	30 Front, 27 Rear	11,777#

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County Farmer's Association elects new directors

INTERCOURSE—Four new directors were elected and three past directors were re-elected to office at the annual meeting of the Lancaster Farmer's Association Monday night.

Robert Brubaker, R. 2 Manheim was elected as the new director for District 2. John R. Groff, 37 Quarry Road Leola, ran unopposed and was installed as the new District 7 director.

Dennis Sangrey, R. 2 Conestoga, is the new director for District 9. Fred Crider, R. 2 Nottingham, is the new director for District 13.

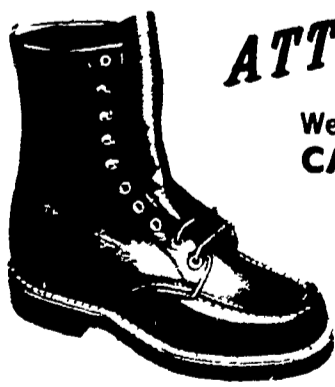
Re-elected to represent District 1 was Harold Ney, R. 1 Marieta. Charles Rohrer, R. 1 Paradise, was re-elected in District 6. James Groff, R. 2 Quarryville, was elected as director from District 12.

Directors for the remaining districts were

While the Soviet Union is leading the world again this year in total wheat production with 85 million metric tons, the figure indicates nearly a 30 percent decline from the U.S.S.R.'s 1978 output.

elected at last year's re-election at the 1980 meeting and will stand for meeting.

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