

Planning Commission takes ag preservation stand

LANCASTER — The Agricultural Subcommittee of the Lancaster County Planning Commission has released its findings in a three page report which makes recommendations on

42 different preservation techniques.

The Subcommittee was created in October 1977 to review the broad range of ag preservation techniques

available in the County and to attempt to develop a strategy for ag preservation.

The approach was to include government, business, organizations, individuals, and public opinion in a broad, multi-faceted approach.

The following techniques were suggested as those which should receive a high priority:

Proper planning and zoning.

Establish complementary farm financing programs involving Farmers Home Administration and Small Business Administration or Lancaster Industrial Development Authority for the purchase of farmland and for operating capital.

Provide low-interest loans to farmers similar to those available to industry by LIDA, through amendment to Pennsylvania industrial development law or other methods beyond FmHA programs.

Provide greater assistance to the Lancaster Conservation District for encouragement, assistance, and enforcement work with farmers in complying with conservation laws and practice.

Amend the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax law to allow preferential valuation of farmland for inheritance tax purposes.

Enact complementary State and Federal legislation to provide authority and funds for the operation of County agricultural preservation programs.

Enact State legislation greatly restricting the use of eminent domain for the condemnation of prime agricultural lands.

Discourage nuisance ordinances which adversely affect agriculture.

The report also stated there would be value in establishing a nongovernmental coordinating group whose job it would be to take a leading role in preserving Lancaster County's agriculture, much as the Greater Lancaster Corporation and Associates in Downtown Lancaster assisted in the revitalization of downtown Lancaster City.

It was felt a substantial commitment of financial resources, much greater than that which was brought together for downtown revitalization, would be necessary in order for such a coordinating group to be created and operate effectively.

It was recommended that companies, individuals, and organizations doing business with or concerned about the preservation of farms in Lancaster County should contribute to this effort.

Finally, the report states the Lancaster County Planning Commission should continue implementing the following

techniques as part of its role in agricultural preservation

Exclusive agricultural zoning.

Floodplain zoning and preservation.

Sewer and water facilities controls.

Road improvement controls.

Public education.

Evaluate farming in the County through the Lancaster Area Land and Water Resources Study.

In the subdivision process, gain the cooperation of

developers and businessmen.

Through the A-95 and other area-wide review procedures, evaluate all County, local, State, Federal, and private actions for their effect on agricultural land.

Continued and improved monitoring of farm loss and preservation.

For a copy of the report or further information, contact Robert M. Behling, Associate Community Planner.

Corrugated container buyers may be due settlement

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers who purchase corrugated containers may be eligible to participate in a class action settlement of nearly \$300 million.

The United Egg Producers said farmers who purchased corrugated containers or sheets between January 1, 1960 and January 25, 1978 may be eligible to get part of the settlement.

A class action suit, filed against the Fibre Box Association and 39 manufacturers of corrugated containers and sheets, now is pending.

Some farmers already have received notification of the proposed settlement.

If the proposed settlement is approved by the courts, purchasers of the corrugated products must file a Proof of Claim form prior to January 11, 1980

Forms can be obtained from Kay Frapart, Mandell & Wright, Corrugated Container Antitrust

Litigation, Box 61154, Houston, TX 77208.

United Egg Producers said it is encouraging all members to obtain forms as soon as possible and to locate records of purchases as far back as possible.

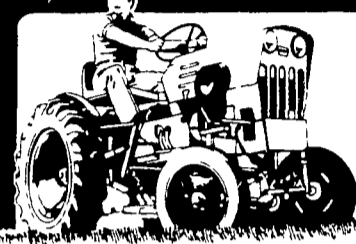
Products covered by the litigation include egg cases, UEP said

Nearly every major manufacturer of egg cases is involved, they said

UEP will assist members in filing claims.



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