

# Floodplain amendment won't affect Lancaster Co. farmers

LANCASTER — The county Commissioners adopted an amendment to the Lancaster County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of 1977 that will restrict any fill or development within the floodplain of streams. Dennis Gehringer, Chief Land Planner for the County stated that this new ordinance would not affect farmers.

Ordinance 12 was discussed and adopted at the regular Commissioner's meeting held on Wednesday morning at the Courthouse. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

The original floodplain

ordinance, passed in 1977, was amended so that now the floodplain is defined as "the area of inundation which functions as a storage or holding area for floodwater to a width required for a one hundred (100) year flood."

According to Gehringer this means that now building or development could not be done in the area that floods every time there is a one per cent chance storm, like the Agnes and Eloise hurricanes.

The 1977 ordinance had limited development of the floodway fringe with the stipulation that the homes be floodproofed within the area. The fringe was defined as

the area where, if a house was constructed, the water would raise one foot.

The Chief Planner explained that this ordinance will affect only 40 out of 60 Lancaster County municipalities. Those townships that have adopted their own floodplain ordinance would not fall under the county regulations.

Those municipalities that presently have their own ordinances include:

Akron Borough; East Cocalico Township; East Lampeter Township; East Donegal Township; Elizabethtown Borough; Ephrata Borough; Ephrata Township; Lancaster City; Leacock Township; Litz

Borough; Manheim Township; Millersville Borough; Mount Joy Borough; New Holland Borough; Quarryville Borough; Strasburg Borough; Upper Leacock Township; West Earl Township; West Lampeter Township, and Warwick Township.

The County's jurisdiction is prescribed under Pennsylvania law, specifically Municipalities' Planning Code Act 247 (1968). Gehringer said that a violation of the ordinance would be subject to equitable and criminal prosecution, with a possible maximum fine of \$1000 per unit or lot.

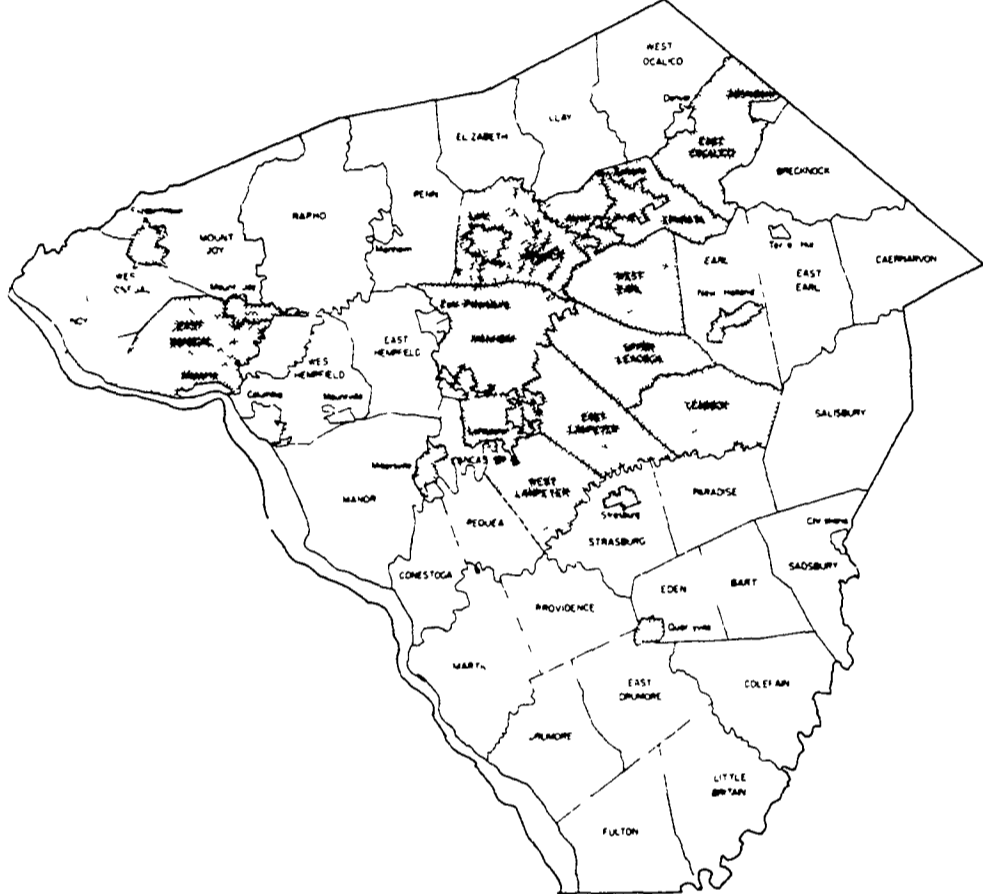
He added that it would be considered a misdemeanor and would require a full court hearing rather than a hearing before a justice of the peace.

"Most people find out what's required," said Gehringer, "and do it." He noted that there have been no floodplain violations to date, under the 1977 ordinance.

How will this ordinance be enforced? Before a developer can begin construction, a plan must be submitted to the County Planning Commission. In order for the plan to be approved, it must meet all the ordinance regulations, and include detailed floodplain information.

The new ordinance calls for the definition of the floodplain boundaries to be done by either the State or the Federal Government. If a dispute should arise, the Commission would determine the location.

(Turn to Page 24)



This county map shows in grey those municipalities that have their own floodplain ordinances. The new amendment will not affect them.

**ALL PURPOSE CART**

★ Bedding      ★ Grass  
★ Feed          ★ Vegetables

Plus 101 other uses  
**\$135.00**

**ELAM M. EBERSOL**  
558 Gibbons Rd., Rd1  
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505  
1 1/2 Mile North of Bird-in-Hand

**Silent Night**

With a deep feeling of gratitude we pray that the holiday's most precious gifts will be yours

**P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.**  
SMOKETOWN, PA      PH: 717-299-2571

**NOW! CHOOSE**  
high calcium or high magnesium  
**AG LIMESTONE**

**Truck Spreading Service Of**  
**AG LIMESTONE AND ROYSTER BONANZA**  
**FERTILIZERS, UREA, AND AMMONIUM SULFATE**  
**OR TRACTOR SPREADERS AVAILABLE.**

We handle fertilizer in bulk and bags, retail and wholesale.

—ALSO—

**ARCADIAN GOLDEN URAN 30%, Poly-N 10-34-0, or**  
prescription liquid mix fertilizer wholesale or spread.  
Plus retail Insecticides and Herbicides.

Call Us For All Your Chemical Needs.

**MARTIN'S AG SERVICE**  
c/o JOHN Z MARTIN  
RD 1, Box 716, New Holland, PA 17557      Phone: 717-354-5848

**Christmas Joy**

Each gift of love to our neighbors is a gift of peace to the world. Let us join in the happy spirit of the holiday to share its warmth and wonder.

**CHESAPEAKE & DELAWARE**  
**GRAIN CORPORATION**  
NORTHEAST, MD 20901  
PHONE 301-398-2111