

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 25 No. 20-2 /

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 22, 1980

\$7.00 Per Year

Pa. loses erosion control funding

Who's passing the 2 million dollar buck?

BY SHEILA MILLER
HARRISBURG — Farmers and land owners in Pennsylvania missed out on about \$2 million of expected Federal conservation money. The funds were earmarked to improve Lancaster and Berks County waterways through erosion control.

A change in federal regulations, in-fighting

between agencies for control of the money, and delay by the Governors office in acting on a state-wide conservation plan provided enough red tape to strangle the project.

A whole fistful of state and federal agencies are placing the blame at everyone else's doorstep.

But on March 5th, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob

Bergland announced 13 project areas picked to receive funding under a \$50 million rural clean water program.

Farmers in the Conestoga watershed in Lancaster County, and those in the Tulpehocken watershed in Berks County, however, were not on the list of eligibles.

Even though the ap-

plications for funding to help farmers finance the needed conservation work were in Washington D.C., there was one major item missing for their consideration.

The Commonwealth neglected to submit the state-wide water quality plan to the federal Environmental Protection Agency for EPA's approval. Approval was required prior

to any applications being considered for funding. Or, at least, that's what some folks are saying.

Ernest F. Giovannitti, Chief of the Division of Nonpoint and Industrial Sources within the Pa. Department of Environmental Resources' Water Quality Division, claimed the regulations provided by the federal

government were not clear about whether the state-wide plan was needed in order to be considered for funding.

He explained under the original amendment of the Federal Clean Water Act's Section 208, the agricultural pollution control program was to be administered by the Soil Conservation Service.

(Turn to Page A24)

Kauffmans honored for farm conservation

BY CURT HARLER
SMOKETOWN — The Lancaster County Conservation District named Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Kauffman, Jr., R 2 Peach Bottom, as its Outstanding Conservation Cooperator.

The award, along with several others, was presented at the district cooperators annual meeting and banquet held in Smoketown Thursday night.

Transplanted Chester Countians, the Kauffmans today manage the 155 acre Sukavin dairy operation in Drumore Township. While Bob Kauffman did not grow up on a farm, the award cited his willingness to educate himself on con-

servation and implement good practices.

"He started at the bottom and worked up," Robert E. Wagner, District Director said.

Kauffman also was cited for having an up-to-date conservation plan and sticking to it. Kauffman has been quite supportive of conservation activities.

Over half the Kauffman home farm and the 100 acres they rent are Class III land or worse with slopes up to 15 percent.

Despite this, most of the Sukavin's feed is produced at home for the 96 cows. The herd has the County's third highest production record with a rolling average of

19,000 pounds milk and 715 pounds fat.

Since joining the District in 1972, Kauffmans have put contour strips on the farm, constructed 2600 feet of sod waterways, 4665 feet of diversion terraces, and installed a unique manure management system which separates solids from liquids.

Solids are spread twice a year and liquids are

(Turn to Page A39)



Outstanding Cooperator Award, and a farm photo, were presented to Robert and Susan Kauffman, Peach Bottom, by Director Robert Wagner. Kauffmans' daughters Karen and Beth looked on.

Welfare, milk fund keep Hill busy

BY DICK WANNER
HARRISBURG — The fate of the Commonwealth's institutional farms is still up in the air, according to state representative Reno Thomas (R-Snyder-Union).

Thomas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee said he met Tuesday with officials from the Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Agriculture to talk about the disposition of the jobs,

the lands, the livestock and the equipment on the 10 farms now in the hands of DPW.

DPW Secretary Helen O'Bannon decreed two weeks ago that the farm's 141 union employees would be furloughed as of April 30, and she ordered that arrangements be started to dispose of the livestock and equipment on the farms which are associated with

(Turn to Page A17)

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LITITZ — Take a good look at the agricultural skyline; it's probably not going to change very much during the coming months.

Or put in another way: As interest rates continue to climb, very little else will be going up in the way of new facilities on area farms.

A survey of agricultural lending institutions this week showed that operating loans for seed, fertilizer and other planting preparations are being requested and made as in previous years.

But it's an entirely different picture for loans to finance farm expansion or capital improvements, including new equipment purchases. Loans of this type range from rare to non-existent.

The volatile and hectic money markets, which have sent interest rates soaring particularly in the past six weeks, are causing a lot of rethinking among farmers about what is absolutely necessary to get through this year.

Agricultural borrowers now taking out loans are facing interest rates four to five percent higher than last spring.

Much of that rapid in-

crease has taken place just since mid-February, too.

But what has happened in the past isn't the only concern.

Looking to the future, both agricultural lenders and borrowers are wondering just how high the cost of money will climb.

Presently, short-term interest rates are running between 13 to 16 percent.

But individual lenders are hesitant to cite specific current interest rates. Things have been changing too rapidly. And there's no reason to think the situation

is going to change in the near future, either.

The key word concerning farmers' outlook for the coming season's operations is "conservative."

"Everyone is trying to be more conservative," Carl Brown, of Farm Credit Service, said.

"They're cutting corners wherever possible."

This conservative attitude applies to not only new buildings and major improvements, according to Brown, but to new equipment, as well.

"You're seeing farmers

trying to make do with what they have for another year or even longer," he said.

"Also, you're starting to see resistance to the real big machinery. Such things as the large combines on today's market are just not practical in this area."

A similar appraisal of the consideration being given to new machinery purchases came from Robert Bucher, of Commonwealth National Bank.

"There are no quick decisions being made as before," he said.

(Turn to Page A29)

Bradford group joins hands to 'dump the dump'

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

RIDGEBURY — "Dump the Dump" has become the slogan of a group from Ridgebury Township, Bradford County, called BCASE-Bradford Citizens Against Unsafe Environment.

The group was formed when it became known in February that the Stabatrol Corporation, a firm in the

commercial landfill business, had bought 160 acres of land in the hills of Ridgebury township and had applied to the Department of Environmental Resources for a license to dump toxic waste there.

A public hearing was called by the Stabatrol Corporation to discuss the landfill at the Ridgebury Community Hall. Opposition to the dump was im-

mediately organized by Ridgebury natives. Nearly 600 people attended the meeting to vocally oppose what they called the "hazardous chemical waste dump."

The officials of the Stabatrol Corporation defended themselves stating that they have three or four existing landfills throughout

(Turn to Page A38)

In this issue

SECTION A: Editorials, 10; Manheim FFA, 18; Atlantic breeders meet, 20; Philly flower show, 28.

SECTION B: Adams-York dairy sale, 2; 2,4,5-T ban 4.

SECTION C: Easter candy, 2; Joyce Bupp, 15; Manure management tour, 16; Franklin DHIA, 19; Pork All-American, 36; Farm talk, 38.

SECTION D: PSU beef conference, 4; How dairymen have fared, 14; Depreciation tax credits, 28; Manure management, 30.

SECTION E: Fats and heart disease, 4; Angus juniors, 6; Sale reports, 8.