



Farm Talk

Jerry Webb

What if you woke up some morning in the newspaper headline that the last farm in the state had just been purchased for a development — the last green acre was being subdivided and the entire place was now one great big suburbia

That sounds far-fetched, but it's a real possibility

I heard farmers at a farmland preservation meeting in Dover recently say that half the farmland in Delaware is for sale right now for the right price, and that most of the rest will be for sale eventually

I also heard farmers say that there are already thousands of acres in all three Delaware counties that are owned by developers with subdivision plans already approved. They also said that unless something specific is done, Delaware will continue to lose farmland to development down to the point where the last farm is gone

That's frightening when you look out over Delaware's open spaces and think about the loss of food production, open space and wildlife, and the prospect of ever-widening spheres and strips of suburbia. That's Delaware, but it could be any state, any county

Every time I read about another shopping center being approved I cringe, because in my simple agrarian mind I can't imagine why consumers would be willing to give up the productivity of a fertile farm in exchange for another place to shop

It's particularly noticeable in upper New Castle County as you think back over the past 10 or 20 years about the open land that has been developed

With present trends in Delaware it's not at all hard to project a future where the open fields of lower New Castle, Kent, and even Sussex will go the same way

The governor's advisory committee on farmland preservation has issued a draft copy of a report with some recommendations on preserving Delaware farmland

Public meetings were held as a way of getting additional input before final copy is turned over to the governor. But I heard farmer members of the governor's committee say that all they were hearing at those meetings was the same kind of talk they had already heard among themselves as they prepared the plan.

They feel more citizen input is required and that the task of preserving farmland should be a broader one than it now seems to be perceived

As I looked around that Dover meeting I saw familiar faces, farmers who are active in all kinds of farm organizations. The presidents and board members of almost every farm group from the Grange and Farm Bureau to the Delaware Swine Producers and the Delaware Agricultural Museum Association

But where was the League of Women Voters? The civic association heads? The city council presidents and the real estate association members?

It seems to me that preserving Delaware's farmland is truly everybody's business and it's in everybody's self interest to see that a good job is done. A preservation plan must be fair to the people who now own the land and to the people with urgent needs for that land. But I just can't see how the job can be put off

much longer or left to someone else

The farmers themselves attending those meetings were adamant in at least one point, and that is they want a farmland preservation act to be administered at state level. They don't seem to trust county government to do a fair and equitable job of administering the proposed agricultural zones over a period of time

Reflecting on current county zoning actions, several farm spokesmen said that it just wasn't working, and there was no reason to think a county administered farmland preservation plan would work any better

There needs to be a strong and continuing dialogue among all those interested and concerned with Delaware's farmland, culminating in a law that will assure a viable agricultural base in that small state. A plan that will allow for good commercial farming units and the needed commercial and residential development that a thriving economy requires

People don't want to be cooped up in high-rise buildings or row houses, and yet agriculture cannot continue to accommodate the rural residents who want two to five acres in the heart of agricultural areas. Some compromise must be reached, and that's what the advisory committee's preservation plan is all about

Maybe as one observer pointed out, the nontarm critics are just waiting until some kind of legislation is drafted before they make their feelings known, but by

then it may be too late. A legislature could draft and enact a bill that wouldn't really please anybody unless it gets plenty of input

MILK

If you have fat cattle or need feeders ...

THINK NEW HOLLAND

BEEF SALES

MONDAY - 1:30 P.M.
THURSDAY - 11:00 A.M.

Sale Order - Fat Bulls, Steers, Stockers and Beef Cows
Veal Calves - 4:30 Thurs

NEW HOLLAND SALES STABLES, INC.
Phone: 717-354-4341

Daily Market Report - Phone 717-354-7288
Abe Diffenbach, Manager
Field Representatives - Alan Diffenbach 717-656-9806
Luke Eberly 215-267-6608

PUBLIC SALE

OF NEARLY NEW BI-LEVEL HOUSE

Location: In village of New Danville, 3 miles South of Lancaster off Route 324 at light to Schultz Road to Krissy Drive on Donna Ave., Pequea Twp.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

1 P.M.

On lot app. 110x200 built in 1979. Bi-Level house with brick front and balance with vinyl siding, 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths (1 with double-bowls), dining, living room & kitchen. All nice size. Stove included in kitchen. One car garage w/macadam drive Elec heat w/provisions for 2 wood stoves Carpet throughout house Thermopane windows, and shade Rec room in basement with room for expansion Well water & drain field on lot

Terms by **MELVIN J. GRAVER**

10% down, bal. in 90 days. Inspection of property by apt. 687-6544.
J. Everett Kreider
Steve Petersheim, Aucls.
Peter Honaman, Atty.
Beautiful Country Setting

COMPLETE DISPERSAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1980

11:00 A.M.

Located 1 mile from Route 220, just south of New Albany, Pa. New Albany is between Towanda and Dushore, Bradford County. Arrows.

92 HOLSTEINS AND A FEW GUERNSEYS

Registered and High grade Holsteins, 7 Registered Guernseys, 50 mature cows, 12 bred Heifers, 12 yearling Heifers (some big enough to breed), 18 started heifers, 16 fresh since October 6, to freshen soon, balance in various stages. Presently making a ton daily On DHIA test and AI breeding. A young dairy - 5 years the oldest. All raised by Mrs. Sayman and selected from the best neighboring dairies. This free stall dairy is very quiet. All broke to lead. Vet examined and Inter-State Charts

MACHINERY

Ford 5600 Diesel Tractor, air conditioned cab w/948 hours, AM-FM and CB radios and load monitor system, has snow blade (this tractor looks about new), Ford 4000 gas w/front loader, Speedex 16 h p 3 pt #1632 tractor and front blade, Ford 140 3B 18" semi-mtd spring reset plow; MF 10' transport disc; Hesston 10' hydra-swing windrower; NH #718 chopper w/1 row and pickup heads used 1 season, NH 56 rake; NH 3 pt mower; NH 328 spreader with hydraulic end gate, Gehl #1500 big baler, Gehl bale forks, McKee 5 bale hydraulic self-loading transport buggy, Gehl unloading box and wagon; Hustler 56 PTO hopper blower, MF back blade; MF 2 row planter, 3 pt fertilizer spreader; NI fertilizer sower; 2 flat wagons, concrete mixer

- Badger 16' Silo Unloader
- Badger Feed System w/80' Conveyor & 30' Distributor
- 2½ ton steel pellet bin w/magnetic feeders
- 1968 Chevy Suburban 4 wheel drive 32,000 miles
- 30' Corn and Alfalfa Silage
- 2 Ritchie double heated waterers
- Generac 30,000 watt PTO Generator

MILKING EQUIPMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS

Girton 650 round tank and washer, Alamo 4½ h p vacuum pump, fertilizer, seed oats, grass seed, twine, air compressor, plow points, etc, etc, too much to list

Only reason for this sale is Mrs. Sayman's poor health

Terms Cash or approved checks

Owners
FRED AND DOROTHY SAYMAN

Jim Adriance & Sons, Auctioneers
Montrose, Penna
717-278-1574

Lunch Available

SPECIAL HORSE SALE

OF DRIVING HORSES

MONDAY, DEC. 15th

AT NEW HOLLAND SALES STABLES, INC.

12 Miles East of Lancaster, Pa. just off Rt. 23
New Holland, Pa.

These horses to be sold at 12:00 Noon

- 1 Load Saddlebred Driving Horses consigned by Don Boring
- 1 Load Saddlebred Driving Horses consigned by Milton Potter
- 1 Load Standardbred Driving Horses consigned by Bud Leonard

For more information Contact:
Abe Diffenbach, Mgr. 717-354-4341
Norman Kolb 717-397-5538

BELLEVILLE LIVESTOCK MARKET WISHES ALL THEIR PATRONS A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

WE WILL HAVE OUR REGULAR SALES DEC. 17 AND 31

NO SALE CHRISTMAS WEEK - DEC. 24

FUTURE SALE DATES TO REMEMBER:
HORSE SALES- FEB. 14 AND MARCH 21
SPRING MACHINERY SALE- MARCH 6
SPRING HRF. SALE- APRIL 24
EASTER LAMB AND GOAT SALE- APRIL 8

ROBERT GABLE AND FAMILY REGISTERED HOLSTEIN SALE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

at 12:30 P.M.

Chaffee, NY. 35 mi. south of Buffalo, 5 mi northwest of Arcade, 9 mi east of Springville on Route 16.

85 Holsteins Sell, 79 Registered, 6 Grades

1 Excellent, 11 Very Good, 32 Good Plus, 11 Good. An exceptional dairy of Registered Holstein cows featuring a 'VG-85' Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief, M.E. over 27,000m 1,085 fat at 2 yrs., and bred to Roybrook Starlite and under contract to a major stud. Also a "GP-81" 3 yr. old with 271d 24,440 4 5% 1,095 and due back in 11 months to Breezewood Cadillac. An "EX" cow with 237d 15,147 3 6% 551f and due to Triple Threat Two VG-87" young cows, one ME over 19,000m Two Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief calves from a tremendous cow family

Sires represented Elevation, Chief, Hilltop Apollo Ivanhoe, Bootmaker, Milu, Conductor, Pacemaker, Whittier Farm Apollo Rocket, Apache, Willow, Flame, Double Triune, Astronaut King, Ned, and Triple Threat

20 head sell with records over 20,000. Herd average 10-26-80 86 5# 16,334m 3 5% 576 fat.

TERMS: Cash or good check day of sale, nothing to be removed until settled for.

CREDIT Available by contacting Ernie Morris, Genesee Country Bank, Warsaw, NY Phone 716-786-3195 prior to the sale

Owner,
ROBERT GABLE & FAMILY
Chaffee, NY

WILLIAM KENT, INC.
Sale Manager & Auctioneer
Bergen, NY Ph 716-494-1890