

Letters To The Editor

Dear editor:

Your editorial "Enough is enough" in the January 3 issue of the Lancaster Farming sure hit home with our family.

How well we know of the ways of the Penn State Commission. Our farm was one of those confiscated by the Game Comm to bring about the ill conceived "Middle Creek Water Fowl Project in Northern Lancaster County and Southern Lebanon County where we lived.

The Game Commission seized approximately 3200 acres of ground and much of this ground was good tillable soil. Twenty-eight farms were involved and many of those farms were in the same family for many generations.

Death and destruction was seen everywhere when this project was in it's forming stages and to think that this is possible in a country such as ours is to be "The Land of the Free"

Many pictures were taken during this time of destruction and death both still and many feet of movies. It was simply unbelievable but yet very true.

I wrote many letters to persons who I thought perhaps they could help us

as the battle was great and very greivous. One such letter is one that was sent to scores of persons and inclosed you will find a copy of this letter. Much has been omitted and much was not fit for printing. However please read

One of your weekly writers, Ida Risser (no relation) apparently took a group of youngsters to the Middle Creek Project area for a first hand look at the Game Commission idol. She gave a writing as to her impression of the project and I also inclosed a copy of her thinking written a few years ago of their visit. According to her article she was not too impressed.

Our good farm land should be preserved for farming. Food is this lifes greatest need without it we will soon have a lifeless world.

Again I say your article of January 3 is certainly very true. I sure hope those in authority come to grips with one of the most important issue of our present time, and that is to make permanent provision for the preservation of our farm land.

Lester G. Risser
Mercersburg

Dear Editor.

I am writing in response to your editorial "Enough is enough" in the January 3, 1981 issue of Lancaster Farming.

I believe open spaces should be saved whether it is farmland, backwoods or mountains. There has to be a balance maintained of all types of land not just one kind.

You list three negative aspects of the acquisition of land by the state through stae game lands.

One "Wrong land is being saved first. No big rush of developers to develop racky hillsides." There is an increasing amount of developers who are using wooded areas or hilly terrain. Two examples are Spring Hill Acres consisting of 985 acres and Ironmaster Acres consisting of 200 acres of mountainland going into housing development.

"Why not use the same money that would go to buying up Game Lands as incentive payments for farmers to keep land in agriculture?"

Once the state starts paying farmers for saving farmland in direct payment for land, you are not far from communist controlled farmland. The money to buy state game lands does not come from the state's General Fund. Annual license fees bring in 56.8 percent of the \$25,300,000 taken in by the Commission, the rest coming from other PGC operations such as timbering.

If the money that buys the land does not come from the non-hunting public, it shouldn't be used to save farmland. The hunters bought their license paying

for the privilege to hunt. They expect the Pa. Game Commission to manage, enforce, and regulate all wildlife and protect endangered species on public and private land. The Game Commission has done a very good job over the years since it was founded.

Two "the Commonwealth pays no tax on state park land and only 39 cents per acre on game and forest land." Private mountain land owners pay less on their land than does a person who has a house, business or farm. The county and township receive some tax dollars but they will not have to put roads through the forest as long as it is game land.

Schools receive a share even though that land will never send a child to school.

Three. "We would argue that game land, while open to all of the people, actually benefit a relative handful of the population." When private property is posted against trespassing, people can turn to state gameland. Anyone who enjoys the outdoors, bird watchers, hunters, hikers, and wildlife photographers, all can enjoy the state game lands.

Those very game lands are watershed areas for all the cropland in Pennsylvania. The trees help purify the air and keep the water pure that feed into the streams and rivers that run through the lowlands providing water for crops, people and livestock. This water is a very special thing to all walks of life.

You say "Enough is enough" but a report in your newspaper issue Jan. 3, 1981, p. A9 "State farmland" by the USDA Soil Conservation Service report that cropland in Pennsylvania is

decreasing by some 52,000 acres each year and woodland at an even greater rate of over 170,000 acres a year.

In closing, I wish to say there may be negative aspects to this land acquisition but the beneficial aspects far outweighed the negative. The Pa. Game Commission is investing their monies in preserving their part of Pennsylvania although benefiting many others.

Judy Ann Moyer
R2 Annville

Dear editor:

I was glad to see "Farm Wife Practices Nursing, Too", thinking it might be a realistic look at a farm wife who works mostly off the farm. However, nurse Treva Marley also helps in seven

greenhouses and a farm market.

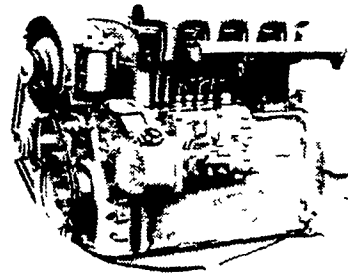
The superwomen farm wives who milk, drive tractor, organize community activities, take care of kids and home always fills me with admiration and feelings of inferiority.

Just once I would like to see an article about a farm partner who has an "outside" profession and provides only moral support to her farmer husband. Surely there is a place in Lancaster Farming or the world for the "Non-farmette" farm wife.

There must be other women whose time off the farm is more valuable than any labor they could give to the business. Remember, my dollars make farm mortgage payments, too.

Pro Wife
Phillipsburg

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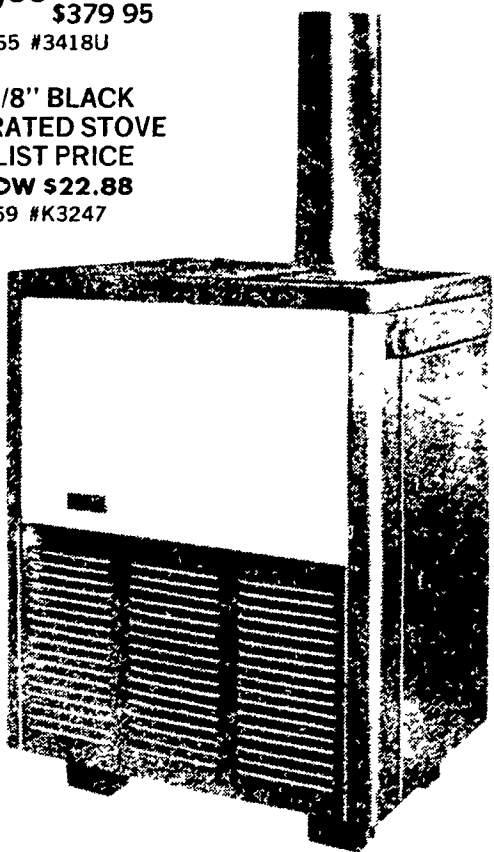
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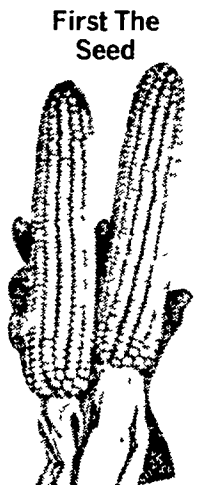
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