

# Oley seeks to preserve its ag past

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Staff Correspondent

**OLEY** — More than 80 residents of Oley Township interested in preserving their heritage and fertile farmland attended a public meeting Tuesday evening conducted by the Oley Township Resource Conservation Project.

Held at Friedens Lutheran Church, Route 73, Oley, the meeting was primarily about the progress and findings of an agricultural survey conducted within the township in March, 1980. The conservation project of Oley was selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a model for their Rural Project, just begun last year.

The goals of the project include the collection and documentation of information on the community's agricultural, scenic, natural and historic assets in the hopes that this information will help Oley's citizens develop a realistic plan that will help conserve Oley's rural environment.

The National Trust is assisting the project with the added assistance of the Berks County Conservancy, helping it's residents identify and collect information on it's resources and assets.

## Farm Inventory

The survey discussed during the recent meeting was conducted by the agricultural resources subcommittee to take inventory of the farmland within the township. This included the number of farms, acres of cropland and types of crops produced, including the numbers and kinds of livestock raised. Also surveyed were the

problems and needs of the farmers within the township and their feelings on ways to insure a healthy, rural future.

Of the 112 landowners of 20 or more acres within the township, 93 responded to the survey. Andrew Glick, chairman of the agricultural resource committee was very pleased with this response of 83 percent. He commented that it was a good indication that the residents of the township were concerned about the future of agriculture in the township.

The survey also identified the number of landowners actively engaged in farming or renting their land and the different age groups of the farmers. The results indicated that 68 percent of the land owners farmed their land while the remaining rented it out. Only four percent of the active farmers in the township were under 30 years of age, causing some concern among the committee members, since 26 percent were over the age of 65.

Also emphasized during the meeting were the number of generations which have farmed the same land. The survey revealed that over half — 55 percent of the farms — were only in the family for one generation and 27 percent were in the family for two generations, totaling 82% of the farms. At three generations the number decreased to six percent; four generations to five percent and five generations were on the same farm in only one percent of the cases surveyed.



Looking over map for Oley farmland preservation project chairman; Garrett Brinton, executive director of Berks County Conservancy; Andrew Glick and son, Timothy. National Trust Rural Project; Hilda Fisher,

## Troubling Question

This raised the question troubling farmers for years, of how farms can be kept in families or even more importantly, how can the residents of the township keep the farms in agricultural production, when the land is being pressured by urbanization, and as

in Oley's case, also quarrying. As Glick noted, the land will eventually change hands, much of it in the next 20 years and who will be the deed holders?

The survey also indicated that 11 percent of the farmers in the township only rented the land, two of them being under thirty, or half

of that age group. And of the active farmers, 73 percent farmed as their main occupation while the rest were part-time farmers.

Other important points of the survey revealed that well over 80% of the landowners wanted their

(Turn to Page D12)

# 800 SERIES Bobcat

Liquid Cooled, 1700 lb. Operating Capacity

## COMPARE THE FEATURES:

### SAFETY

## EXCITING NEW CONCEPT FOR SAFETY & COMFORT "THE SEAT BAR"



Multi-purpose padded seat bar is in place at top of cab. When operator is seated, he fastens seat belt before pulling down seat bar. Rear window serves as emergency exit, if necessary.



Seat bar allows adequate body clearance for range of operator sizes. Bar is quickly, easily pulled down by hand and secured at waist level, providing additional restraint protection that prevents operator from falling forward.

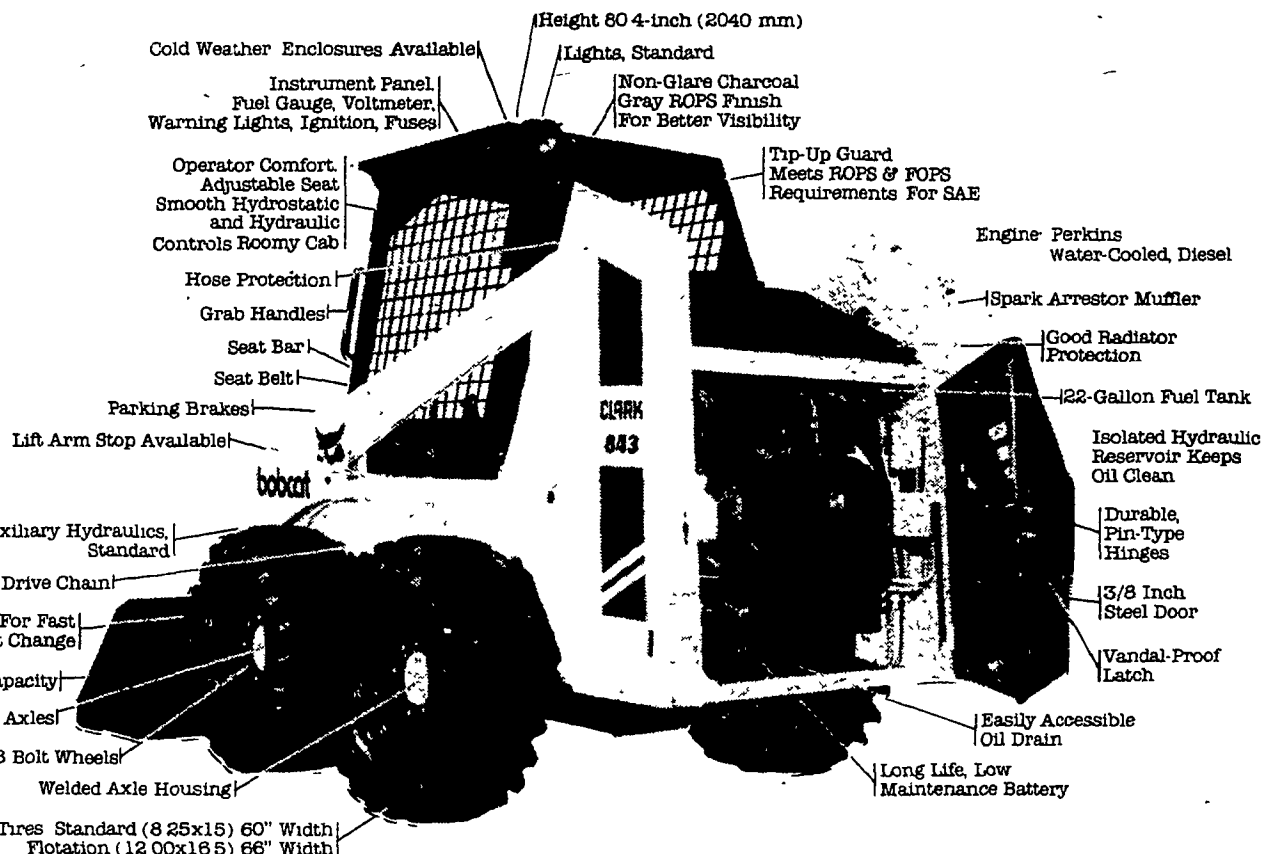


With bar in place, spring lock is disengaged, activating foot pedals which operate loader hydraulics. Foot pedals are locked when bar is in "UP" position, preventing lift arms from moving.

### PERFORMANCE

**Hydraulic Self Leveling Bucket** 1700 lb capacity with dump reach up to 36". When you work a Bobcat, you'll feel the power at the wheels for maneuverability and stability throughout full load cycles

### PRICE



**CLARK**

**BOBCAT DEALERS:**



**BOBCAT...#1**

**13 Models Up To 3700 Pound Capacity**

Carlisle, PA  
**PETERMAN**  
FARM EQUIPMENT  
717-249-5338

Harrisburg, PA  
**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT**  
& SUPPLY CO.  
717-564-3031

Myerstown, PA  
**SWOPE & BASHORE INC.**  
717-933-4138

Mill Hall, PA  
**DUNKLE & GRIEB**  
717-726-3115

Tunkhannock, PA  
**BARTON FARM SUPPLY**  
717-836-3740

Chambersburg, PA  
**CLUGSTON**  
IMPLEMENT INC.  
717-263-4103

Honey Grove, PA  
**NORMAN D. CLARK**  
& SON INC.  
717-734-3682

Palm, PA  
**WENTZ**  
FARM SUPPLIES INC.  
215-679-7164

Slatington, PA  
**SCAT ENTERPRISES INC.**  
215-767-1711

Quarryville, PA  
**GRUMELLI'S**  
FARM SERV.  
717-786-7318

Drums, PA  
**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT**  
& SUPPLY CO.  
717-788-1127

Martinsburg, PA  
**BURCHFIELD'S INC.**  
814-793-2194

Centre Hall, PA  
**DUNKLE & GRIEB**  
814-364-9109

Collegeville, PA  
**MID-ATLANTIC EQUIP.**  
215-489-1400

Airville, Pa.  
**AIRVILLE EQUIP., INC.**  
717-862-3358