

## Oley

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property to stay in farming if they decided not to keep it, and 91 percent felt that there is a need to preserve farming in Oley.

Asked if they have experienced adverse effects from development, 35% of the land owners said yes. The problems experienced were of three categories; people problems such as vandalism, theft, litter, traffic and trespassing; quarry problems, such as loss of water from springs and streams, sinkholes, blasting damage, loss of farmland, and an eyesore; and development problems, which included sewer, high tension lines, high land cost, loss of farmland, neighboring developments and pressure to sell land.

### Theft Problem

In a question pertaining to problems generated away from farms, but at them, farmers revealed that 34.4 percent have had problems with theft, 26.8 percent have had problems with vandalism and ten percent have had complaints about noise or odor.

When asked for suggestions of ways to preserve farming in Oley, answers also came back in three categories. The first was legislative way which included zoning, agricultural districts, transfer of development rights, and tax incentives. In the personal category ideas such as specialized farming, deed restrictions, easements, and owners only selling their land for farming. Under community, low interest loans to farmers, incentives for starting farming, fair market prices and public awareness were mentioned.

Also noted but not included as data in the survey was that in Oley township, farmers were only nine percent of the taxpayers but owned 72 percent of the land.

Following the discussion of the

survey, an educational film strip entitled "The Only Essential Industry" was shown to the audience. The film looked at several alternatives that other farmland communities are doing to preserve their valuable farmland, and what the governments, statewide and federally have been trying to accomplish.

The film also stressed the importance of agriculture to our nation's balance of trade. It was noted that about one million acres of farmland is being lost each year to urbanization and another two million acres of land of lesser quality is also being lost. This is equivalent to 320 acres of land every hour.

### Plans to Preserve

The committee plans to use this information, gathered by through the survey to help them devise plans for preserving their agricultural wealth and heritage.

Other sub-committees of the project are Community involvement, chaired by Mrs. R.K. LeVan; Land Use, chaired by Fred J. Goodhart; Natural resources, Loran Hopkins; and Visual Resources, Kenneth Haas. Mrs. Frank Fisher is chairman of the entire project. The project also has hired a part-time assistant to coordinate all five committees, she is Phoebe Hopkins.

Elizabeth Watson, a field director from the National Trust also spends several days each month with the project volunteers, offering guidance and help to plan community resources and to set objectives.

In a recent news letter sent to boxholders of Oley Township, the conservation project committee noted that one of its key concerns was to develop measures to help protect the community's outstanding architecture, within the villages of Oley and Pleasantville, and in the rural outlying areas as with the stone barns and houses. The committee hopes to have the area nominated to the National

# Deadline for crop insurance purchase nears

ORWIGSBURG — Farmers in most Pennsylvania counties can now obtain subsidized Federal Crop Insurance against a partial or total loss of their 1982 wheat and barley crops according to Bill Foose, district director for Eastern Pennsylvania.

Insurance on fall crops are being offered for the first time in the counties of Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Columbia, Delaware, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, and Wayne. These counties are part of the nationwide

Register of Historic Places. Already three sites in Oley are registered.

### Protect Area

These are two covered bridges and the Fisher House. By having the area nominated to the National Register they hope to protect the area from federally funded projects that may be detrimental to the area as it stands today. As well as being a matter of pride and prestige.

Also being proud of their citizens, the committee introduced Berks County's Dairy Princess at the meeting since she is a resident of the area. Betty Jean Hock described some of the many activities she has been involved in as dairy princess and stressed the need for consumers to reach for the real seal. The dairy princess did a skit about milk and had several pictures depicting how milking has evolved from the hand and pail to the modern milking parlors of today.

expansion of Crop Insurance authorized by Congress in the Crop Insurance Act of 1980.

A key feature of the insurance program, which is designed to replace the ASCS disaster payments program, is that the government pays up to 30 percent of the premium cost. Another important feature is the opportunity it provides for growers to choose the amount of protection they want to carry, Foose points out.

It's possible to purchase a policy that guarantees 50 percent, 65 percent, or 75 percent of the local average yield. Policyholders can also select the price per bushel they want to be paid in the event of a loss. The choices are \$2.50, \$3.50, and \$4.50 for wheat and \$2.00, \$2.25, and \$2.60 for barley.

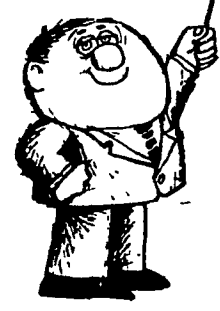
Foose offers this illustration on how the insurance works.

"In an area where the average wheat yield has been 45 bushels, farmers can elect to carry a policy that guarantees 22.5 bushels, 29.5 bushels, or 34.0 bushels. If a grower chooses the maximum

guarantee of 34 bushels per acre and the maximum price of \$4.50, an indemnity of \$4.50 for each bushel of yield below 34 bushels per acre is paid. Thus in the event of a total crop loss, the indemnity would be \$153 per acre.

Because of higher production costs and last year's drought losses, Foose points out most policyholders are choosing insurance that protects their entire production investment. Others are carrying enough insurance to guarantee the amount of income needed to meet specific financial obligations, such as the repayment of bank loans or land rental payments.

The deadline to apply for 1982 Fall Crop Insurance in Pennsylvania counties is September 30. Federal All-Risk Crop Insurance policies can be purchased from local FCIC representatives or from private insurance agents. Wherever purchased, the protection and cost are the same. Information may also be obtained from county ASCS offices.



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