

Act offers security

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ven years, after which the program must be reviewed.

If at any time you wish to sell your farm, the buyer automatically takes your place in the agreement.

Lembeck said, "I can't see any reason why farmers wouldn't want to get involved except they're concerned with how it will obligate them and they're still wondering how it will benefit them."

The act states that participating landowners are entitled to "special consideration from local and state governments." The local government unit may not impose regulations which unreasonably restrict farm structures or practices, nor may normal farming operations be termed a "nuisance" when carried out properly and with care.

Likewise, state government agencies must modify their administrative regulations and procedures in Agricultural Areas. Perhaps the most promising benefit is that special reviews are required whenever local authorities propose condemning agricultural land to ensure that all reasonable and prudent alternatives have been considered.

In brief the key features of an Agricultural Area are:

— it is initiated by petition of farm landowners only — not government

— it has a minimum area of 500 acres — you can include any part or portion of your farmland; it doesn't have to be all your land nor your prime land. Woodland can be included

— it may include nonadjacent farmland parcels

— it is based at the township or borough level, not the county or state

— it holds a seven-year lifetime

— participation by landowners is strictly voluntary

— participating landowners are entitled to special consideration as described above

It takes five basic steps to establish an Agricultural Area. They have been described by Lembeck:

1. The process is initiated by the owners of 500 or more acres of agricultural land. Nonadjacent farmland parcels may be included in the proposal submitted to the local government unit in which the proposed Area is located. If the proposed Area is in more than one governmental jurisdiction, the proposal is submitted to each local



This farmland in Lebanon County — as with all land in this county and likewise all counties in the state — now has the option of being involved in the Agricultural Area Security Act.

This Act is designed as a tool for strengthening Pennsylvania agriculture by encouraging farm landowners to form local "Agriculture Areas."

governing body.

2. The local governing body must inform the general public when it receives the proposal. Basic information about the proposed Area is printed in a newspaper and posted in prominent places. The notice is an invitation for public comment and asks for modifications to the proposal.

3. At the end of the thirty-day notification and comment period the proposal, with comments and modifications obtained from the public, is referred to the local planning commission and an Agricultural Area Advisory Committee which is set up specifically for this purpose. The Advisory Committee is composed of three active farmers, one citizen, and a member of the local governing body. Both groups have 45 days to review the impact of the proposal and modifications on the local governmental unit.

4. A public hearing on the proposal and modifications must be held by the local governing body.

5. Following the reviews and public hearing, the governing body takes one of the following actions:

— may adopt the original proposal

— may adopt any modifications,

including adding, or excluding, nonviable farmland

— may reject the proposal

Action by the governing body must be taken no later than 180 days after the original proposal was submitted. If the local governing body adopts the Agricultural Area, it files a description of the Area with the County Recorder of Deeds and the Planning Commission.

After the description is filed, the Area is ready to be formed. Participation is open to farm landowners, including those who were not among the original petitioners, on a voluntary basis. New land can be added to the Area only after seven years when it undergoes a review. Landowners who want their land withdrawn, or added to, must notify the governing body at least 120 days before the end of the seventh year.

Because the goal of the program is to support a growing, productive agricultural industry, the Act lists

several factors to be used in evaluation:

— the viability of active farming in and adjacent to the proposed Ag Area. Viability includes such things as good soil, climate and topography; farm markets; extent and nature of farm improvements; current status of farming; and anticipated ag and technological trends.

— nearby viable farmlands not presently in active farming

— nature and extent of nonfarm activities in or close to the proposed Area

— local development patterns and needs

At this point, Lembeck emphasized that if land is included, the Act does not say the land cannot change in terms of use, however there may be other local regulations which could change it.

Landowners interested in establishing an Area or in finding out more about the Act should contact Stanford Lembeck at Penn State, (814) 865-0455.

Preservation board may get FFA member

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Farmland Preservation Board may soon have a representative of the County FFA as its newest member.

The Board, which is next scheduled to meet on Friday, is considering the appointment of a Future Farmers of America member.

The consideration of an FFA member on the board has resulted from a series of talks on farmland preservation which are being given by Lancaster County Commissioner James Huber, a strong supporter of the preservation effort.

Commissioner Huber recently talked on preservation before the vo-ag class of Dick Yencer at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. The class is now scheduled to attend the coming Friday meeting of

the board.

On Wednesday, Commissioner Huber is scheduled to give a similar talk before a Lancaster Mennonite High School class.

"I think the appointment of an FFA member to the Preservation Board would be quite beneficial to the effort," Commissioner Huber explained.

"After all, the preservation of farmland, and how successful any effort will be, will most affect the younger members of the farm community, such as the FFA.

"And, I believe that the youthful viewpoint can provide some very beneficial input to the activities of the Board."

Reportedly, a tentative candidate for the possible appointment has been earmarked from the current slate of County FFA officers.—DA

Chick placement down

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending October 17 were 2,213,000 according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The placements were one percent below the corresponding week a year ago but six percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were slightly below a year ago.

Placements in the key 19 key poultry producing states were 75,134,000, eleven percent above the previous week and slightly above the same week a year earlier. Average placements in the key states during the past nine weeks were five percent above a year ago.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending October 7 totaled 1,992,000, with an average liveweight of 4.09 pounds.

By Order of U.S. Bankruptcy Court, E. Dist. of Pa.
#81-00060G, J.H. Ganz, Esq., Trustee

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Indoor Ring Bldg.: w/10 box stalls; 150' x 60' ring.

DIRECTIONS: From Rts. 202 & 401: W. on 401 approx. 3 mi. to 1st left past Trnkp. (Pine Creek Rd.) Left 4/10 mi. to property on left.

INSPECTION: DAY OF SALE

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SAT., NOVEMBER 14
2 P.M.

Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD

301-489-4519

44 Angus, 2

Shorthorns, 4 Crossbred

Grand Champion steer at the 1981 Virginia State Fair, Champion and Reserve Champion Angus at the 1981 Wills Fair, Reserve Champion Angus at the 1981 Carroll County Fair were all purchased in our 1980 sale. Selling full brothers to the Champion and Reserve Champion Angus at the 1981 Maryland State Fair bred by Stonylonesome Farm. Also selling 10 steers from Rishels Edlyn Farm. They bred the Champion and Reserve Champion Angus and a Reserve Grand Champion steer at the 1981 York Co. Fair.

PUBLIC SALE

ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

at 10:00 A.M.

Located along Rt. 472, just south of Quarryville in the Borough of Quarryville, Lancaster County, PA.

Antiques and Household Furnishings consist of: Dutch cupboard; Cherry drop leaf table; another drop leaf table; 2 Dove tailed blanket chests; another blanket chest; wash stand; round oak table; chest of drawers; six-piece dining room suite; sideboards; hutch; buffet; coffee table; small tables; plank bottom rockers; other rockers; odd chairs; bureaus; three-piece living room suite; two-piece living room suite; sectional sofa; upholstered love seat; four-piece bedroom suite; mattresses; metal bed; other beds; desk; stereo w/AM-FM radio and tape player; portable TV; 5 gallon crocks; other crocks; old bottles; jars; jardinere; sewing machine; flower stands; electric lights; and other articles.

1969 CHRYSLER NEWPORT CAR
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H. CLAIR ECKMAN ESTATE
Henry P. Stager, Executor

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Kersey A. Bradley, Auctioneer