

# Amos Funk makes own farm an ag preserve

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

LANCASTER — Mr. Farmland Preservation, Amos Funk, this week made a very personal commitment to farmland preservation by placing a 25 year deed restriction on his 89 acre Marticville farm.

Funk is chairman of the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board and semi-retired fruit and vegetable direct farm marketer. He has been urging other farmers in the County to place deed restrictions on their farms in order to slow the loss of farmland to development and maintain a viable farming community.

"I've been very outspoken about farmland preservation and the concept of deed restrictions," said Funk, "many people have questioned how I can advocate something and not practice it myself. So I decided it was time to make a personal commitment to agricultural preservation by placing a 25 year deed restriction on our farm."

The deed restriction was formally placed on the farm at the County Commissioners meeting, Wednesday morning.

Funk has been a pioneer in farmland preservation and conservation in Pennsylvania. The Marticville farm borders the Pequea Creek and has over 15,500 feet of terraces, constructed to retain topsoil and nutrients. In 1939 Funk established the first con-

servation practices on his Millersville property, and the farm served a demonstration farm for such practices. That property is now owned by his son, Fred and earmarked for development on the county comprehensive plan. In 1951 he was appointed as a charter member of the board of directors for the Lancaster County Conservation District.

"From 1964 to 1969 the loss of farmland to development in the county was more than 8000 acres per year. We were losing land far too quickly," Funk stressed. "I thought what is the use of saving the soil if you lose the farm. So I became involved in farmland preservation."

He has worked since 1969 to develop an equitable plan for preserving farmland in Lancaster County and throughout the state.

Funk has studied various farmland preservation plans and practices across the country to glean ideas, and measure the merit and feasibility of such plans. A four drawer filing cabinet overflowing with plans and documents from other state's programs is a testament to his dedicated efforts.

Realizing that no plan for preserving farmland could be successful unless it was acceptable with all sectors of the community, Funk has worked closely with county commissioners and planners, realtors, and building contractors. A county com-



Amos and Esther Funk stand strong for farmland preservation on their 89 acre Marticville farm they placed under a 25 year deed restriction this week.

prehensive plan was developed. "We want support for farmland preservation, not confrontation," he explained. "Building and development is the livelihood to some people just as farming is to us."

As a direct farm marketer, Funk can appreciate better than most farmers, the interdependency between the farm and nonfarm sectors. A new high density housing development across the street from Funk's Farm Market

will bring more potential customers to their door. But too much development without planning could severely hinder their ability farm at the Millersville location.

The 25 year deed restriction on the Marticville farm, zoned rural residential will allow Funk's to continue to supply the more suburban Millersville store.

Funk has pushed the idea of agricultural preserve districts

encompassing a minimum of 1000 contiguous acres. A farmers decision to remain in farming or sell to development is highly governed by what his neighbors do, Funk points out. Suburban encroachment makes farming more difficult.

Only two other deed restrictions have been put on farms in Lancaster County, both in perpetuity. The first by Ivan G. and Fannie Martin, Ephrata, and the second by George and Patricia Baum of Elizabethtown.

Funk hopes that more farmers will also place deed restrictions on their farms, to protect farmland and the viability of Lancaster's farming community.

## Franklin workshop

ROXBURY — The Franklin County Extension Service will be sponsoring a dairy reproductive management workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Lurgan Lions Club Building, Roxbury. The objective of the workshop is to give dairymen useful information that could help improve reproductive performance in their herds. A wide range of topics will be covered by the instructors which include Mike O'Connor and Larry Hutchinson from Penn State, Dr. John Simms from the Burnt Mill Veterinary Center and James Verga from Atlantic Breeders Cooperative.

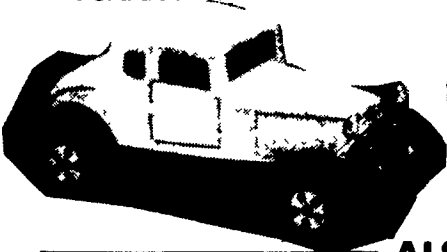
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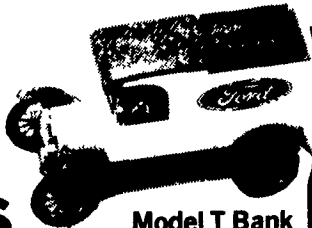
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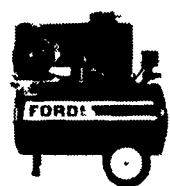
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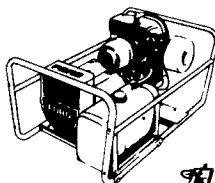
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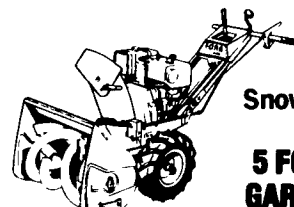


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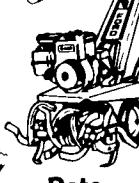
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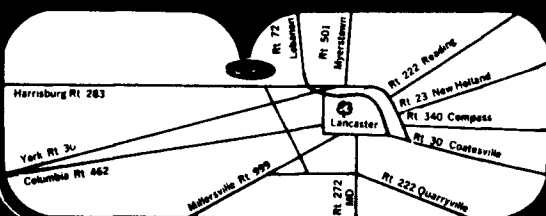
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